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Daily Report

East Asia

**FBIS-EAS-90-060
Wednesday
28 March 1990**

Daily Report

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FBIS-EAS-90-060

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28 March 1990

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Japan

Leaders Discuss Response to U.S. Demands

OW2703234990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1503 GMT
27 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—Japan's top political leaders went into huddles Tuesday to put the final touches on Japan's response to U.S. demands for removing structural impediments to trade and investment. Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu called in Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto late in the evening to discuss how to respond to Washington's call for a major boost in Japan's public works spending, officials said.

The outcome of the meeting between Kaifu and Hashimoto has not been disclosed.

An increase in public works spending is one of Washington's three major concerns. The other two are a lifting of restrictions on the opening of large retail stores and a tightening of penalties under the Antimonopoly Law.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto, Kaifu's chief of staff, went into separate talks with powerful leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to pave the way for their cooperation in working out Japan's response.

Sakamoto paid calls to LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe, and former State Minister Toshio Komoto. Abe, Watanabe, and Komoto are heads of their respective factions.

Sakamoto will meet two more faction leaders, Shin Kanemaru and Kiichi Miyazawa, on Wednesday, officials said.

International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto, who has jurisdiction over the implementation of the Large-Scale Retail Stores Law, will meet Abe on Wednesday to discuss the matter.

Kaifu's cabinet will make a final political decision Friday about Japan's response to American demands, officials said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto and LDP Secretary General Ozawa agreed on the schedule, the officials said.

Officials To Make 'Political Decision' on SII

OW2703124890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT
27 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—Japan will take a political decision on Friday about its response toward U.S. demands for removing structural impediments to trade and investment, officials said Tuesday. Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa met at the Diet and reached an agreement to this effect, the officials said.

Japan will convey its decision to the United States at the fourth round of bilateral talks, known as the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) negotiations, set for April 2-3 in Washington, the officials said. A top-level government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said "the decision will be a final one to be tabled at the fourth round of talks."

The United States has strongly pressed Japan to lift restrictions on the opening of large stores, to boost public works spending and to strengthen penalties under the Antimonopoly Law. U.S. President George Bush, in a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in Palm Springs, California, on March 2-3, urged him to show "political leadership" to settle the dispute over the structural impediments.

Meanwhile, a number of LDP politicians on Tuesday voiced discontent with the United States for putting pressure on Japan to lift regulations on the opening of large stores, LDP sources said. Washington's demand for abolishing the Large-Scale Retail Stores Law was the target of criticism from the LDP Diet members who started panel discussions on how to address U.S. calls for removing structural impediments to trade and investment.

The LDP's decision-making Executive Council and its ad hoc Committee on Economic Adjustment both began discussions on Japan's response to the so-called Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks.

The Large-Scale Retail Stores Law, which restricts the opening of stores with a floor space of 1,500 square meters or more, protects minor domestic retailers who are one of the main bases of support for the LDP.

Seiroku Kajiyama, a former international trade and industry minister, who was present at the Executive Council session, expressed worries about a possible crisis in Japan-U.S. ties, the sources said. Kajiyama was quoted as saying that Americans are pressing demands on Japan as they did during the post-war occupation days.

LDP Secretary General Ozawa told the session that Japan is a major economic power and needs to internationalize itself, the party sources said.

Ambassador Armacost Meets Abe on Trade Issue

OW2803084090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0814 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost said Wednesday that Japan still has not specified a sufficient target figure for increasing public project investments in response to U.S. requests in the current bilateral economic structural talks. Armacost made the remark at a 20-minute meeting with Shintaro Abe, former secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), at Abe's office in Tokyo.

The U.S. request for an increase in Japan's public investment from the present 6.7 percent of gross national product (GNP) to 10 percent in three years' time is one of the key subjects in the ongoing Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks. The Japanese Government and LDP are now working on a reform package aimed at responding to U.S. demands in the SII talks. An interim report is scheduled to be issued in early April.

Replying to the ambassador, Abe said Japan could not state clearly in the April report that it would boost public works expenditure to 10 percent of its GNP. Abe added, however, that it is necessary that Japan indicate a new target period for increasing public project investments.

Armacost later met Home Affairs Minister Keiwa Okuda and asked him for cooperation in easing the Japanese law regulating the opening of Large-Scale Retail Stores, known as the Daitenho. The U.S. envoy, noting that the law is under the jurisdiction of the Home Affairs Ministry, said American consumers generally welcome the establishment of large-scale retail stores in local areas.

Okuda expressed the view that government intervention should be avoided in the business world and said he welcomes the U.S. demand for relaxation of the regulations as an example of sensible pressure. The U.S. demand is a focal issue in the ongoing Structural Talks between Japan and the United States.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party held a joint meeting of its Commercial and Industry Committees at its headquarters Wednesday to discuss ways to handle the controversial law. Party officials said most attendees were opposed to abolition of the law and called for flexible implementation of the regulations.

The participants expressed concern that the LDP might lose the next election because commercial and industrial organizations are the support base for the party. They argued that abolition of the law would lead to a further rise in land prices.

Minister Hints at Change in Large Store Law

OW2803063590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0610 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister [MITI] Kabun Muto hinted Wednesday the Government is considering revising Japan's Large-Scale Retail Stores Law in the face of continued U.S. demands that it be scrapped, government officials said. At a meeting with representatives of industry organizations grouping small to medium-sized companies, Muto questioned whether merely liberalizing the way the law is actually implemented would be enough to satisfy the United States, the officials said.

"The U.S. is quite adamant on the issue. I am quite worried that our proposal for only improving enforcement (of the law) may not get us off the hook," Muto was quoted as saying. The law, which restricts the opening of

large retail outlets, is the main bone of contention in the ongoing trade talks with the U.S. aimed at removing structural impediments to trade and investment.

The U.S. has been urging Japan to repeal the law, claiming that it is hampering the foreign access to the Japanese market by restricting large stores that are the primary sellers of foreign goods.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of four industry organizations, including the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Rokuro Ishikawa, president of the chamber, said the Government should first try a more competition-oriented implementation of the law before considering revising it, according to the officials. The representatives of the other three groups made it clear they are opposed outright to any change, let alone repeal of the law.

Muto promised not to forsake small retailers, but emphasized that the interests of consumers and relations with the U.S. also need to be given consideration. He described himself as being in an impossible position.

Meanwhile, Muto visited former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa at his office, and sought his assistance in the so-called Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks with the U.S.

The fourth round of the talks is scheduled for April 2 and 3 in Washington. Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's Government is making last-ditch efforts to forge a consensus in the Government and in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on what proposals to put on the negotiating table at the meetings.

In the meeting with Miyazawa, Muto explained that there is strong opposition from "mom and pop" shop owners to revising the Retail Store Law, government sources said. Small shop owners constitute one of the most loyal groups of supporters for the LDP.

Miyazawa told Muto that the law and the issue of boosting public works spending are the major problems. "Ministries cannot be expected to take the initiative on such issues since they tend to pay the greatest attention to the moves of other ministries," Miyazawa was quoted as saying.

Miyazawa advised Muto not to make any premature decision.

Muto on Tuesday met another senior LDP member, former Secretary General Shintaro Abe, to ask for cooperation on the SII talks.

Government Will Accept U.S. Satellite Proposal

OW2703135290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1318 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—Japan will settle its satellite procurement issue with the United States within

a few days, fully accepting the U.S. proposal, government sources said Tuesday. The sources said a team of three Japanese officials, including Sadayuki Hayashi, head of the Foreign Ministry Economic Affairs Bureau, would leave Wednesday for talks in Washington with Lynn R. Williams, U.S. deputy trade representative, to present Japan's final compromise proposal.

The Japanese proposal urges that satellites to be developed by the Japanese Government be limited to purely research and development types, they said. The sources said the Japanese Government has given up its plan to develop the next-phase communications satellite, code-named CS4, which is considered to have practical applications. The CS4 project will be integrated into an Experimental Data-Relay and Tracking Satellite (EDRTS) project, the sources said. Under the plan, the EDRTS satellite is scheduled for launching in fiscal 1995.

Agreement With U.S. on Missile Production

OW2703145490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1246 GMT
27 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—Japan and the United States on Tuesday implemented an agreement for the licensed production in Japan of U.S.-developed AIM-7M Sparrow missile systems, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday. Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and U.S. Ambassador Michael Armacost exchanged diplomatic notes on the agreement at the Foreign Ministry earlier in the day.

The medium-range, all-weather, air-to-air Sparrow missile, utilized by U.S. forces since 1982, is to be equipped on Japan's fleet of F-15 fighters, supplanting or replacing the older AIM-7f model, officials said. Officials said the number of missiles to be produced by Mitsubishi Electric Corp. under license from the U.S. contractor, Raytheon Co., is confidential, but noted that Japan has been licensed by the U.S. to produce up to 187 F-15 fighters.

U.S. Invited To Join in Chubu Airport Project

OW2703133090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1034 GMT
27 Mar 90

[Text] Nagoya, March 27 KYODO—The outgoing head of the Nagoya Chamber of Commerce and Industry called Tuesday for participation by the United States in the planned construction of Chubu International Airport. "U.S. builders are superior (in airport construction)," said Kotaro Takeda, who stepped down as the president of the chamber on Tuesday. He was succeeded by Ryuichi Kato, chairman of Tokai Bank Ltd.

"Participation by U.S. companies will help realize an early completion of the airport," Takeda, who is also chairman of Nagoya Railway Co., told reporters.

The 700 billion yen project to build a 24-hour airport on an artificial island off Tokoname, Aichi Pref., by early

next century has been promoted by neighboring prefectures of Aichi, Gifu, and Mie in central Japan. The region is pressing the central government to include the scheme in the next five-year airport construction plan, beginning in April 1991, but the government has so far withheld a positive response to the call.

Takeda's remarks were apparently intended to obtain the government's approval of the project by siding with the United States, which has demanded that Japan open up its construction market.

Hashimoto Blames Yen's Decline on Speculation

OW2703140390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1046 GMT
27 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto Tuesday expressed his concern about the faltering yen, saying the current yen-dollar level does not reflect the economic fundamentals of both countries.

Hashimoto, speaking before a meeting of the lower house Finance Committee, said the yen's decline was the result of speculation. He made the remarks as the U.S. dollar closed at 156.96 yen, up 0.56 yen from Monday's finish.

Hashimoto said his U.S. counterpart, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, shared his worries about the dollar's advance against the yen and other major currencies at their weekend meeting in Los Angeles.

Finance Minister Concerned at Yen's Fall

OW2803051490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0158 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Wednesday morning he is keeping a close watch on foreign exchange rates and is greatly concerned at the yen's current weakness. He made the remarks at a press conference after an extraordinary cabinet meeting.

In early Tokyo dealings on Wednesday, the U.S. dollar surpassed the 158 yen level for the first time in three years and two months, since January 1987, opening at 158.30 yen.

Hashimoto also disclosed he has already received a formal invitation to a meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial countries, scheduled to be held in Paris on April 7. He told reporters he will make a final decision on his attendance at the G-7 meeting after studying developments in the current Diet (Parliament) session.

Mieno Says Currency Accord Remains Intact

OW2803092490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0841 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno reiterated Wednesday that the

agreement between Japan and the United States to cooperate in stabilizing currency exchange rates remains effective. Speaking at a regular news conference, Mieno dismissed the view that the U.S. is now reluctant to help prop up the Japanese currency against the dollar due to inflation concerns in the U.S.

After a hurriedly arranged meeting last weekend in Los Angeles between Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, market participants appeared to have grown more doubtful about the seriousness of the U.S. in lending support to Japan to stem the dollar's upswing, according to currency market sources.

The dollar has continued its surge against the yen since the meeting, rising as high as the 158 yen line in Tokyo currency dealings Wednesday.

In a joint statement, Hashimoto and Brady reconfirmed a commitment to coordinate policies on foreign exchange rates under the cooperative framework of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries, and agreed to closely monitor developments in world monetary markets. But currency markets interpreted the statement as lacking concrete measures to contain the dollar's present strength and as showing that the U.S. was willing to tolerate a stronger dollar at least until after the U.S. mid-term elections in November, market sources said.

At the press conference, Mieno expressed regret over the market's negative reaction to the joint statement. Mieno told reporters that he sees no fundamental reasons for the yen's unabated fall and pledged to continue coordinated market intervention to defend the yen.

The central bank chief cited the narrowing interest rate gap between Japan and the U.S., as well as Japan's fundamental economic strength, as factors favoring a stronger yen. Mieno also said the currency issue will also be discussed at a meeting of central bank chiefs and finance ministers of the G-7 nations to be held in Paris on April 7.

In reply to a question, Mieno said he did not know whether a communique to emphasize stepped-up currency coordination among the G-7 members would come out of the Paris talks.

Responding to another question on whether the central bank has means other than intervention to fight the higher dollar, Mieno said he could not unveil such a strategy. But the markets have already sensed that the Japanese Government and the central bank now have little choice but to continue intense dollar sales, the market sources said.

Mieno said at the press conference that he is confident the present bearish sentiment toward the yen will soon be reversed, especially in the light of Japan's fundamentals. There is almost nothing in the U.S. that would

support the dollar's present high value, but world political and economic developments in recent months seem to help continue to push the dollar higher, he said.

Accelerated movements toward German monetary union and reports of Soviet actions against the Republic of Lithuania were cited by the central bank governor as an incentive for active dollar purchases.

Says G-7 To Discuss Exchange

*OW2803082790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0715 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—Major industrial nations will discuss foreign exchange problems at a meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations to be held in Paris on April 7, Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday. The finance ministers and central bankers from the G-7 nations will also exchange views on the current state of the global economy and its outlook, Mieno told a regular press conference.

As regards the yen-dollar rate, he said he cannot understand the yen's weakness and there is a great possibility of the yen rebounding in due course. He also said there is no special reason for the dollar to strengthen.

The G-7 nations—Japan, the U.S., Canada, West Germany, France, Britain, and Italy—will continue concerted market intervention to stabilize the foreign exchange market, Mieno said. But it will take time for the market to regain stability, he added.

On the domestic front, the central bank chief said there has been no change in the basic trend of the Japanese economy, adding that present price trends will continue for the time being.

Hashimoto Says Currency Accord on G-7 Agenda

*OW2803113390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1108 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Wednesday the reaffirmation of a policy accord to stabilize currency rates would be high on the agenda for Japan at the upcoming G-7 talks. Hashimoto told a meeting of the House of Representatives Finance Committee that in addition to securing a currency agreement, a planned increase in capital quotas in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be another important issue at the G-7 meeting, to be held in Paris on April 7.

The Paris meeting of central bankers and finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries will be the first in more than six months since it was held in Washington late last September. At the G-7 gathering, Hashimoto is expected to seek to raise Japan's share quota at the IMF.

Discussions on the IMF's ninth capital replenishment through increasing capital share quotas among member nations are now under way.

Japan which has the fifth largest contribution share or 4.69 percent aims to expand the share to about 7 percent, the second largest, following the United States. But countries are still far apart on how to distribute the increase as each nation's quota will set its voting right in the Washington-based institution.

Hashimoto, meanwhile, expressed grave concern over the yen's unabated fall against the U.S. dollar, calling recent volatile currency fluctuations the result of speculation.

The Japanese finance minister has repeated recently that he thinks the yen's decline against the U.S. dollar is excessive and that the Japanese currency needs to recover its value against the dollar to a level which adequately mirrors Japan's fundamental economic strength.

The upcoming G-7 meeting will also discuss other international monetary issues including recent developments in Eastern Europe, and the projected European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Hashimoto said.

U.S. Request for Technology Transfer Claimed

*OW2803115990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1117 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Washington, March 28 KYODO—U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney has asked Japan to transfer to the United States high technology in seven fields when he visited Japan last month, government sources said Wednesday. The sources said the request involves compound materials, large-scale integrated circuits (ICS), gallium arsenide ICS, artificial intelligence, optical fibers, phase-array radar, and genetic engineering.

These items were included in a list of 20 strategic technologies which the Pentagon said will play an important role in U.S. national security in the future. The United States has shown interest in the technologies developed by Japanese corporations for general use.

The sources said the request was made through Henry Rowen, assistant secretary for international security affairs, who accompanied Cheney on the Japan visit.

The Defense Agency promised to convey the U.S. request to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, which oversees technological development by private corporations.

Pentagon officials said Japan is the only supplier of these technologies which can be used for military purposes. They said the transfer of technology from Japan will help the United States promote technological improvement and reduce development costs. Compound materials are

used to manufacture large-sized aircraft, particularly warplanes, and reduce their weight.

Authorized Translation of Ishihara Book Planned

*OW2503112590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0800 GMT
25 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—Outspoken legislator Shintaro Ishihara has reached agreement with a U.S. publisher on an authorized translation of his controversial book that will be released this summer, Ishihara said Sunday. But some in Ishihara's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said they fear the translation could worsen bilateral tensions.

Sony Corp. Chairman Akio Morita, who coauthored the original Japanese version of the book, "The Japan That Can Say No," is opposed to the new translation, Ishihara said. U.S. publisher Simon and Schuster is set to release a revised version of the book after May that deletes Morita's comments and expands Ishihara's. Ishihara said he will receive 300,000 dollars in royalties, believed to be the highest ever for a Japanese work.

Suggestions by Ishihara that Japan could swing the balance of power by selling micro circuitry to the Soviet Union caused an uproar when the remarks appeared in an unauthorized translation by the U.S. Department of Defense last summer. This and other remarks attributing U.S. Japan-bashing to racist sentiment earned him the label as "a dangerous ultra-nationalist" by some congressional critics.

Some LDP politicians characterize the new translation as "good material to accelerate Japan-bashing."

"Americans view Ishihara as a 'former presidential candidate' because he ran in LDP presidential elections (last summer). Some advise an early and final end to the issue," one senior LDP leader said. But Ishihara, who has reaffirmed his views in interviews following the uproar, blames intentional mistranslations and omissions for much of the problem. "A proper translation will let the American people see the misunderstandings," he said.

Ishihara has said U.S. frustration over trade issues is "perfectly understandable" and has called on Japanese leaders to speak more frankly with the U.S. But Americans, he notes, must "give up foolish pride and racial prejudice," in order to accept a more assertive Japan.

The original Japanese version, released in January 1989, has been on the best-seller lists in Japan.

USSR To Press for GATT Observer Status

*OW2803140890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1312 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—A high-level Soviet economic official will visit Japan from Thursday through Sunday to solicit Japan's support for the Soviet

bid for observer status in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday. Officials said that Ivan Ivanov, vice chairman of the State Committee on External Economic Affairs, will hold "in-depth" talks on the issue Friday with his Japanese counterpart Minoru Endo, Japan's ambassador for international economic affairs.

The Soviet Union sent a formal application for observer status to the 98-nation world trade body in Geneva on March 7, an official said, adding that the matter is likely to be taken up when the GATT policy-making council reconvenes sometime in early April. Japan, which has curtailed economic ties with Moscow pending resolution of a territorial dispute, is the only major industrialized country in GATT which has not yet publicly endorsed the Soviet bid.

U.S. President George Bush surprised Japan by issuing his country's support for the Soviet goal in his summit meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Malta last December. The conciliatory U.S. move was followed shortly afterward by Canada and the members of the European Community (EC).

Japan and its Western allies had previously opposed Soviet observer status in GATT on the grounds that its planned economy system was incompatible with the international trade rules set by GATT, which regulates four-fifths of world trade.

One of GATT's primary aims is to transform trade barriers into tariffs, which are set as percentages of prices. Prices in the Soviet Union, however, remain set by planners instead of by the market.

Japanese officials said they expect Ivanov to clarify the Soviet Union's "intentions" with regard to GATT, including whether Moscow eventually aims at attaining full membership. Ivanov is also expected to explain Moscow's efforts to comply with GATT's stringent norms and principles by restructuring certain mechanisms for foreign economic trade.

Among the tasks to be completed are improvements in nontariff regulatory measures and the introduction of an efficient customs tariff to make possible mutual tariff concessions.

Ivanov will also likely address the issue of the ruble's inconvertibility, one of the main obstacles to the Soviet Union's integration into the international economic order.

Moscow Policy on Northern Territories Criticized

OW2603145190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Osaka, March 26 KYODO—A visiting Soviet scholar, in an academic forum here Monday, criticized claims by Moscow that the majority of Soviet citizens oppose the return to Japan of disputed northern territories. Soviet Academy of Sciences member Rafik Aliyev

said Foreign Ministry bureaucrats and the Communist Party decided the formal Soviet stance on the territorial question.

"The Soviet Government has pointed to the public will in stressing Soviet ownership of the territories but there has never been a poll (on the issue) in the Soviet Union," Aliyev said. But the scholar, speaking to Japanese and Soviet academics gathered for the annual symposium on Japan-Soviet relations in the Soviet Far East, said he had "no prescription" to resolve the territorial dispute which has blocked closer bilateral relations.

Japan has made the return of the four islands, seized by Moscow at the end of World War II, a prerequisite for improved ties and economic assistance in developing the Soviet Far East region.

Aliyev, who heads up research on international, economic and marine development in the academy's Far East Division in Vladivostok, suggested an extension of economic links beyond national borders. Such moves, he said, would be consistent with increasing trends toward regional cooperation as typified by the European Community (EC).

Academics from both nations agreed Japanese investment in Soviet Siberia would put bilateral relations on more stable footing.

The two-day symposium, held yearly since 1985, ends on Tuesday.

Chinese Refugee Fights Deportation in Court

OW2803060290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0218 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Fukuoka, March 28 KYODO—A Chinese refugee facing deportation to China has filed a suit against Japanese immigration authorities for denying her claim to political asylum, her lawyers said Wednesday. The plaintiff, a 23-year-old woman from Fujian Province, arrived in Naha last September aboard a refugee boat along with 230 fellow Chinese, according to the suit filed with the Fukuoka District Court.

She is the first person of 2,800 Chinese "boat people" who made their way to Japan last year to challenge the Government's deportation order. The Government has refused to allow the Chinese to settle in Japan on grounds they left China to seek work in Japan, not because of political persecution.

Lawyers representing the plaintiff said she took part in prodemocracy activities in Fujian Province and fled China out of fear that she might be subject to persecution by authorities for her political involvement. The lawyers said they took up her case after she claimed in a local television show last December that she was a political refugee and not a job-seeking migrant.

Her lawyers refused to reveal the plaintiff's name, saying they are concerned that she may suffer retaliation by Chinese authorities if her suit is turned down by the court.

The lawyers said the plaintiff was never told of her right to appeal when immigration authorities notified her of the deportation order. The Fukuoka Immigration Bureau has denied the allegation, contending that she had asked for early repatriation to China if she was not allowed to work in Japan.

Asahi To License Camera Technology to China

*OW2603130090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0707 GMT
26 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 26 KYODO—Asahi Optical Co. said Monday it has licensed autofocus still camera manufacturing and marketing technology to a Chinese optical instrument maker. Asahi said the license agreement with Gansu Optical Instruments Industrial Co. will permit the Chinese firm to manufacture and market light, compact autofocus cameras mainly for China's domestic market. The Chinese company plans to export some models later, it said.

Gansu Optical Instruments Industrial located in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, will begin manufacturing autofocus cameras in August with an estimated production capacity of 300,000 units a year, Asahi said.

Asahi is the third Japanese firm to have its autofocus cameras manufactured in China, following Canon Inc. and Olympus Optical Co.

Raw Silk Imports From PRC To Be Doubled

*OW2703070190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0614 GMT
27 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—Japan has agreed to double raw silk imports from China in Fiscal 1989 to 40,000 bales, government officials said Tuesday. A bale contains 60 kilograms of silk. The two countries belatedly set the import quota for the current fiscal year ending March 31 during five days of talks in Tokyo which ended Monday night, the officials said.

Japan will import the agreed volume between April and December, the first nine months of Fiscal 1990, as Fiscal 1989 shipments have been delayed, they said. Japan is sharply boosting raw silk imports from China as domestic output is on the decline despite brisk demand, the officials said.

The two countries also set the Fiscal 1989 quota for silk fabric at 7.5 million square meters, up 2.0 percent, and for silk yarn at 6,000 bales, up 33.3 percent, they added.

Singapore Requests Continuation of Training

*OW2703100690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0844 GMT
27 Mar 90*

[Text] Singapore, March 27 KYODO—Singapore wants Japan to continue training ASEAN countries in how to be productive, Japanese and Singapore officials said Tuesday. Singapore has been absorbing and adapting Japanese productivity technology for the past seven years under a program sponsored by the Japanese Government.

Mitsuo Ishizaki, representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency's Singapore office, said the Japanese Government received a request from Singapore for a regional training program on productivity to continue for the benefit of other member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

So far, Singapore has been learning about Japanese productivity technology through the "productivity development program," a 20 million U.S. dollar technical assistance project sponsored by the Japanese Government. The project, which began in 1983, as one of five human resource development projects for ASEAN countries sponsored by the Japanese Government, will end in June this year.

During those seven years, three regional training programs, called "Japan-ASEAN regional training programs," were held for Singapore to share the experience gained from Japan with Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

Ishizaki said Singapore wants such regional programs to continue—this time focusing on management consultancy. It requested that Japan continue to send experts to Singapore.

He said other ASEAN countries have also expressed interest for such programs.

He said his agency has not yet made any decision based on Singapore's request. "We view Singapore not only as a recipient country but also as one of our important partners in this region, in extending regional technical cooperation to countries in Asia and the Pacific," Ishizaki said.

"Singapore hopes to conduct regional training programs," said Freddy Soon, divisional director for resources at the National Productivity Board.

During the past seven years, 172 Japanese experts have come to Singapore to help train Singaporeans in productivity technology.

Meanwhile, some 200 mainly small and medium-sized local companies have been assisted by the board's officials and Japanese experts in the last three years.

The third regional training program began Tuesday with 21 participants from both the public and private sectors in ASEAN countries meeting for an intensive two-month

training program on management consultancy. The budget for the third training program, at 300,000 Singapore dollars (about 160,000 U.S. dollars) was sponsored by the Japanese Government.

Provision of Grant to Nicaragua Planned

OW2703123390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—Japan will provide a 300 million yen grant to procure an emergency supply of fertilizer to help Nicaragua boost its food production capacity, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday. The officials said notes to this effect were exchanged earlier in the day in Rome between representatives of Japan and the United Nations' World Food Program (WFP), which will procure the fertilizer from the United States and transport it to Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan request for fertilizer for basic grain production was made during a visit to Japan earlier this month by a group of advisers to president-elect Violeta Chamorro and later confirmed by Japan with the current Sandinista government of President Daniel Ortega. The Japanese assistance comes amid a drastic decline in the country's food supply and a deterioration of the economy as a result of the prolonged civil war.

Chamorro's aides had told Japanese officials that Nicaragua urgently needs an estimated 150 million dollars in agricultural aid, as well as several times that amount to fill the empty coffers at the central bank. The agricultural assistance represents the first Japanese financial aid committed to Nicaragua since the opposition victory over the Sandinista's in the U.N.-supervised election February 25.

Japan had pledged to provide large-scale reconstruction assistance to the country if the elections were deemed free and fair by international observers. The officials said the current Japanese grant can be considered part of that pledge as it is the first extended to Nicaragua since 1979, other than humanitarian assistance for relief from disasters such as hurricanes.

Japanese aid to Nicaragua has been welcomed by the United States and is seen by Foreign Ministry officials as part of Japan's contribution to the U.S.-Japan "global partnership."

South African President Urges Easing Sanctions

OW2703073490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0601 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—South African President F.W. de Klerk has called on Japan to relax its economic sanctions against his Government, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday. The officials said De Klerk made the call in a meeting Monday in Capetown with former Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari, who served as Japan's special envoy to Namibia's independence ceremony March 21.

They quoted De Klerk as saying while Pretoria understands Japan's opposition to apartheid, Japan's sanctions are much harsher than other countries. The president specifically pointed to troubles faced by South Africa in the procurement of spare parts and in securing follow-up maintenance for Japanese equipment, the officials said.

Asserting that South Africa is now winning increasing acceptance in the international community, De Klerk said he hopes relations with Japan can move onto a sounder and friendlier footing.

Kuranari told De Klerk that Japan has long called for the abolition of apartheid and hopes to see a peaceful resolution of South Africa's problems through negotiation between the relevant parties. He conveyed Japan's wish to see the South African Government seriously moving the country toward a free and democratic system free of state-sanctioned racial discrimination.

De Klerk said his Government aims at the abolition of apartheid and the establishment of a democratic form of government. But he added that the Government is trying to achieve those goals in an "orderly" fashion, the officials said.

The officials said the meeting represented the highest level contact between the two countries in recent memory. Japan's trade ties with Pretoria have often made it subject to international criticism, but Japan also maintains sanctions such as a ban on direct investment and restraints on bank lending.

The officials said Kuranari, who will be traveling to Kenya and Britain after his visit to South Africa, also met South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela in Namibia on March 21. He relayed Japan's invitation to Mandela to pay a visit to Tokyo, the officials said.

Mandela reportedly said he would be happy to accept the offer, but would have to consult with his colleagues in the African National Congress (ANC) as to the timing of the visit.

Government Submits Provisional Budget to Diet

OW2803020190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0123 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—The cabinet on Wednesday submitted a 10.2 trillion provisional budget bill to the Diet to tide over government expenditures for the first 50 days of the new fiscal year beginning on April 1. The makeshift budget, the fourth such measure to be introduced in successive years, is to cover essential government outlays, pending the enactment of a full-fledged government budget for the entire fiscal year.

Action on the 66,273.6 billion yen Fiscal 1990 budget was delayed as a result of the February 18 general election for the House of Representatives.

The provisional budget, cleared by the cabinet in a special session on Wednesday morning, set aside 5,649.4 billion yen in the general account and 4,792 billion yen in the Government's fiscal investment and loan program. Outlays earmarked in the provisional budget bill include 1,870.8 billion yen for social security and 1,110.8 billion yen for servicing government bonds. Subsidies to local governments total 3,122.8 billion yen. Another 1 billion yen has also been aside for the Defense Agency to finance Japan's participation in this year's joint Rimpac naval exercise with the United States and other U.S. allies in the Pacific. Outlays for public works total 1,999.9 billion yen.

The House of Representatives is expected to start deliberating on the budget bill on April 3 and the House of Councilors the following day. As the upper house is controlled by the opposition, the bill is expected to be enacted on the strength of its approval by the lower house, where the Liberal Democratic Party commands a comfortable majority.

The Constitution gives precedence to the decision of the lower chamber in the event of a disagreement between the two houses on the government budget.

The ruling and opposition parties have yet to work out the schedule of Diet procedures, and a vote on the provisional budget at the lower house is not expected until April 20 at the earliest, Diet sources said. The Government may be forced to put together a supplementary budget in addition to the provisional budget if the opposition-controlled upper house refuses to vote on the provisional budget.

Budget bills adopted by the lower house automatically become law one month after they are sent to the upper house.

USDP Leader Proposes New Opposition Party

*OW2603150790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1406 GMT
26 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 26 KYODO—United Social Democratic Party (USDP) leader Satsuki Eda proposed Monday to form a new coalition party in order to reorganize the opposition camp. Eda, at a national meeting of officials of the minor opposition party here, proposed the formation of the new party by next year's local elections.

Eda told the meeting that four-opposition party talks on their coalition government scheme have been deadlocked and that his party will try instead to reorganize the opposition camp.

To pave the way for the new party, USDP Diet member Yanosuke Narasaki also proposed a change in the party's policy on Self-Defense Forces [SDF].

He said the party should now state that the SDF is constitutional on condition that three nonnuclear principles are kept.

Narasaki said the USDP is talking with the main opposition Japan Socialist Party (JSP) to form a grand party under liberalism and democracy with the JSP, USDP and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) as its center.

He also proposed that the new party join hands with the Komeito, the Progressive Party and other "reformist, liberal" forces.

As the main principle of the new party, the USDP proposed a "people's democracy" which would promote the political participation of women and ride on "the tide of civilian politics."

USDP Probes New Opposition Party With JSP

*OW2803083290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0723 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—Satsuki Eda, leader of a Japan Socialist Party [JSP] splinter party, said Wednesday he has launched informal talks with the JSP on forging a new opposition party. Eda, leader of the five-member United Social Democratic Party (USDP), said that special envoys from the two parties are probing forming a new party that would have broader appeal to other opposition parties and to the public at large.

"These are not concrete consultations, but the participants have a common target in mind," Eda said in an interview with KYODO news service.

"If we launch a social democratic party in Japan, it might be a change of name for the Socialist Party, but from our side it might be forming a new party," Eda said.

On Monday Eda proposed at a national meeting of USDP officials that a new opposition party be launched to break a deadlock that has diminished prospects of a coalition among four major opposition parties—the leading opposition JSP, the USDP, and two centrist parties, the Buddhist-affiliated Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party.

The four opposition parties entered discussions last April aimed at forging a coalition government, and were encouraged by their victory in House of Councillors elections in July, their first win since the LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] came to power 35 years ago. But the two centrist parties have become increasingly cool toward the other parties following their poor showing in House of Representatives elections in February. The JSP, meanwhile, boosted its number of seats in the poll from 83 to 141.

Eda said his proposal was made in part to block possible cooperation between the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Komeito and DSP.

Eda said that LDP-centrist party cooperation would damage the opposition parties' ability to offer a viable alternative to the LDP. "The consequence would be a complete defeat in next general election (for the Komeito

and DSP.) and reversion of the JSP to its position of stubborn opposition party that does not want to gain power," he said.

The opposition parties remain at odds over policies on defense pact with the United States, national security, nuclear power plants, and relations with North and South Korea.

Firms Must Report Real Estate Purchases Abroad

*OW2803114890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1112 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—The Construction Ministry decided Wednesday to oblige about 100 Japanese companies to report twice a year on any overseas real estate investment worth more than 50 million dollars, beginning in April. The ministry said construction, real estate, and trading concerns will be required to report in detail on any such overseas real estate investment, such as purchases of hotels and offices, resort development, and redevelopment of areas surrounding the properties.

The move came amid mounting concern abroad over Japanese companies' aggressive real estate purchases, which are currently estimated at more than 10 billion dollars annually.

The ministry conducted a survey of 1,800 Japanese companies in early February asking them about their overseas investments in real estate during the three-year period to the end of March. The survey showed that the 100 companies to come under the new order are the most active investors.

Labor Unions Stage Separate Rallies in Tokyo

*OW2503180990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1238 GMT
25 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—Some 100,000 labor unions staged two separate rallies in Tokyo and urged a continuous fight in the annual labor spring offensive. Some 50,000 unionists of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC) rallied in Meiji Park, while another 50,000 non-JTUC members gathered at Yoyogi Park.

JTUC leader Akira Yamagishi called on the participants to keep up a steady struggle in the spring labor offensive which will be highlighted on April 4-5. It is the JTUC's first experience of the spring labor offensive since it was formed by a merger of private unions with the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan last November.

The participants adopted an appeal for a new labor movement focusing on greater leisure, richness and happiness at home. The non-JTUC members called for a big wage increase and support for workers who are to be fired soon by the Japan National Railways Liquidation Corp.

SDF Iwojima Garrison Reduced Due to Drought

*OW2703060290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0507 GMT
27 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—Half of some 300 Japanese maritime and air self-defense forces [SDF] stationed on the strategic Pacific island of Iwojima were obliged to return to the mainland Tuesday as a result of continued low rainfall on the island, defense officials said. The officials said the servicemen flew from Iwojima, about 1,300 kilometers south of Tokyo, back to Atsugi, west of Tokyo. It was the first emergency pullout since Japan began using the island as a military base in 1968.

Iwojima, a volcanic island where Japanese and U.S. troops staged a fierce battle in the closing days of World War II, has been struck by severe drought this year. The monthly rainfall this year has been half or a quarter of normal years. The amount of stored drinking water dropped from the usual 30,000 tons to less than the "crisis level" of 8,000 tons.

Those withdrawn included personnel from the Defense Facilities Administration Agency engaged in the construction of a provisional airfield for use by jet fighters from U.S. aircraft carriers. Agency officials said they may have to review the project if weather conditions do not improve.

SDF officials have also expressed concern that the pullout may affect military drills on the island, which is extensively used by Japanese self-defense forces. The Maritime Self-Defense Force, which supervises the bases on Iwojima, said it plans to build a 20,000-ton water reservoir on the island.

Toshiba To Begin Marketing Four-Megabit Eproms

*OW2703101390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0916 GMT
27 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—Toshiba Corp. said Tuesday it has begun marketing the world's first four-megabit Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory (EPROM) chips that are compatible with conventional four-megabit mask Read-Only Memories (ROMs). The company said it will begin shipping the chips in April. The new memory device can store up to 16 pages of standard newspaper text.

An EPROM is a nonvolatile memory device with which users can readily erase and rewrite information. The contents of a mask ROM cannot be changed. The device is used in computers, word processors, video games and printers to store data or programs.

An eprom is also ideal for products under development and approaching a mass production stage since they enable rewriting and correcting of loaded programs or data. Afterward an EPROM can be replaced with a more cost-effective and large-memory-capacity mask ROM.

Until now, developers have had to use four one-megabit EPROMs at the first stage of development and then redesign the printed circuit boards to replace them with a four-megabit mask ROM. But Toshiba's breakthrough will enable developers to replace EPROMs with the four-megabit mask ROMs without changing design, shortening development time and increasing efficiency, the company said.

Toshiba said it will introduce two versions of the chip. One with an access time of 120 nanoseconds will cost 140 dollars, while the 150-nanosecond chip will be priced at 110 dollars. A nanosecond is one-billionth of a second. Toshiba researchers achieved the fast 120-nanosecond access speed by developing a new memory cell layout, the company said.

Toshiba said it plans to introduce a four-megabit EPROM with an access time of 100 nanoseconds sometime this summer.

Mongolia

Politburo Discusses Upcoming Party Congress

OW2803113090 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 1100 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Politburo has gathered Tuesday [27 March] and discussed preparations for an extraordinary party congress to be opened on 10 April. Politburo members exchanged views on improvement of the structure of the party Central Committee apparatus; reduction of its staff; and other questions of foreign, home, and personnel policy of the party.

Dzardyan Says Socialism Facing 'Deep Crisis'

OW2703132590 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0810 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Report on interview with Dr. Kinayatyn Dzardyan, newly appointed deputy prime minister of Mongolia, by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given; Dzardyan speaks Mongolian, fading into English translation]

[Text] Conferences on the problems relating to social and economic situation in Mongolia have become a regular feature of public life in Ulaanbaatar. They deal mostly with different aspects of perestroika in this country. Next, we have a report from the one held by Dr. Dzardyan, who the other day was appointed deputy prime minister of Mongolia:

[Correspondent] Being asked to describe the present state of our society, which is in process of implementing the reconstruction policy, Mr. Dzardyan said the following:

[Dzardyan] We are accustomed to saying that socialism is society of patronage and hastily called it a social society. But it is not in real fact. We have not yet attained

socialism. Today we have come to see that the socialism we have is not a finished model of society, which allows people to live in harmony without trouble and difficulties and have everything they need. If today we can proclaim a socialism, we will definitely crack down its prestige. So first of all we have to determine essential characteristics of the present society and create all the preconditions needed for passing to socialism. Socialism is facing a deep crisis today. None of the world countries have managed to build socialism in the Marxist way. The first ever signs of socialist crisis appeared in the fifties and sixties, about time attempts were made to abandon outdated models of socialism: suffice to mention the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of Soviet Union, three times attempts of economic reforms in the Soviet Union, Hungarian economic renewal in the sixties, Chinese reforms which started in 1979.

In the mid-fifties a number of Mongolian intellectuals stood on the position of renewal, but their awareness was then qualified as intellectuals' delusion. Those who realized that our society was in a crisis and cannot develop without operating change were dismissed from the political arena in the sixties, for the bureaucratic system came to dominate. It was unable to initiate any renewal. In order to overcome society's contradictions, they (?tried) civil actions, using both stick and carrot, and even made people learn slogans by heart. But things didn't alter and throughout the seventies and eighties our society was living in an ever-deepening crisis.

We have planned an economy based solely on centralized planning and state-owned property, and largely dependent on foreign investments. In the political sphere, a deeply rooted bureaucracy was a dominant factor. In ideological sphere everything was described as doing well. Drawbacks were concealed while a slightest achievement was overwhelmingly praised. Ways of thinking were modeled upon one and the same dogma, but not affected (?was) the negation of natural identity and the habit we have got to blindly rely on foreign assistance. Up to the mid-eighties things [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] When did the reconstruction process begin in Mongolia and what results has it brought about?

[Dzardyan] Actually it began in 1988. Since society has set into a motion. This is one of the main results of the reconstruction process. The next result is democracy and openness. But there are cases when they contradict each other. Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish them from disorder. Democracy and openness must be carried out in the frame of socialism. We cannot allow them leave the frame of socialism because socialism is our supreme goal. We see now a notable achievement in the economic sphere. We cannot achieve good results at once. This will take time. Another achievement of the reconstruction process is that we began to pursue the open-door economic policy in foreign economic relations. Mentalities are changing. We must not rest on our laurels and exaggerate our achievements.

[Correspondent] What are the difficulties and obstacles in the process of reconstruction and renewal?

[Dzardyan] The process is going slowly and it is hampered by many things. As regards its subjective reasons, the bureaucratic system, which for many years has dominated in our society, was not ready to accept and implement the new process. And the personnel who got used to the old thinking could not accept new thinking. And as far as the objective reasons are concerned, they are laid on the old backward and dependent economic system. We confront the shortage of possibilities to renew the entire economic system. Scientific, technological possibilities are fewer and national production forces are insufficient.

[Correspondent] What will be the final outcome of the reconstruction and renewal process?

[Dzardyan] As [words indistinct] we shall pass to democratic and humane socialist society, but to reach it we will have to traverse several stages. Such countries as Hungary and Czechoslovakia are (?bypassing through) democratic socialism because they have material technological basis for it. It is difficult to say when Mongolia will have every possibility to pass to such a society.

Japanese Official Interviewed on Ties With State

OW2703142990 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0810 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Interview with Mr. Shinichi Nishiyama, director of the Chinese and Mongolian Department of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, by (Buryn Biar), a Mongolia Radio correspondent in Tokyo; date not given; Nishiyama speaks in Japanese fading into English translation—recorded]

[Text] [(Buryn Biar)] Mr. Nishiyama, what do you think about the future of the Mongol-Japanese relations?

[Nishiyama] Mongolian Prime Minister Sodnom has recently been on an official visit to Japan to mark a new start in Japanese-Mongol relations. Diplomatic relations between Japan and Mongolia were established in 1972, but since (?then) they have not developed intensively. There were probably geographical and historical reasons. Last year our foreign minister visited Mongolia, and I am glad to say that all this will positively influence a sound expansion of bilateral cooperation. We appreciate that the ongoing reconstruction and renewal process in your country has a favorable impact on Mongolia's foreign policy. We have signed a trade agreement, which became a basis of bilateral economic cooperation. Japan will help to build a small ferrous metallurgical enterprise in Mongolia. I think all this will further stimulate bilateral cooperation.

[(Buryn Biar)] Are ordinary Japanese eager to cooperate with Mongolians?

[Nishiyama] Before, ordinary people in Japan did not formulate suggestions to cooperate with your country,

but recently some suggestions have been made, probably because of the (?pact) to jointly build a ferrous metallurgical enterprise in Mongolia. For instance, there is a proposal to set up an enterprise of assembly television sets. Japanese firms wish to know the conditions of capital investments and to know if they would be profitable or not. Mongolian prime minister said at the press conference that Mongolia is preparing a document on foreign capital investments. If it is adopted, I think that Japanese firms will be much interested in cooperation with Mongolia. Direct air flights between our countries would positively influence on our economic relations.

[(Buryn Biar)] The Mongolian side has invited the Japanese leadership to visit Mongolia. When will your prime minister be in Mongolia?

[Nishiyama] Our prime minister is very busy. Japan has diplomatic relations with more than 150 countries, and there are many countries where he must travel. So it is difficult to say exactly when he will visit your country. Mr. Kaifu has promised to visit Mongolia at his very opportunity [as heard], and our department will do the best to realize his plans.

[(Buryn Biar)] Perhaps that the development of relations between the ordinary people of the two countries is the foundation of the cooperation between our countries. I think that the development of tourism will be important for developing relations between individuals. What are the possibilities to receive Mongolian tourists in Japan?

[Nishiyama] Although tourism is not a developed branch in our relations, the number of Mongolians coming to Japan is increasing. Correspondents come here frequently. Mongolian students come here to study. I think in the future there will be more and more Mongolians visiting our country. In Southeast Asian countries, there are joint Japanese enterprises and the workers of those enterprises are invited to Japan. If the Japanese firms set up joint enterprises in Mongolia, Mongolian workers will be also invited to visit Japan. This is an interesting question, and I must think it over. The Japanese Government cannot interfere into the work of the tourism circles, but I think that there are other ways to invite the Mongolians to our country.

[(Buryn Biar)] Not long ago, Mongolia proclaimed a policy of economic opening, and this has marked a new stage to develop friendly relations with Japan in particular. What do you think about this?

[Nishiyama] With no doubt Mongolia has every right to develop links with not only Japan but also with other countries. It is important to pursue a flexible policy in economic relations as well as that Japan-Mongol relations may prove efficient in the Asian-Pacific region. Mongolia can also make profits from this. Japan has broad ties with Western countries. As we are situated on the Asian Continent, we must develop friendly relations with Asian countries. Japanese economy is one of the most powerful in the world today. That is why it has to participate in tackling world-scale questions. In other

words, it ought to contribute to the world economic development by its economic power, foreign policy. [sentence as heard] Today the world natural resources are decreasing. We can protect them only by joint efforts. Developing countries can use Japanese investment and technology. If the world countries determine what they need and cooperate with each other, they will contribute to protecting natural resources and speeding up economic development.

North Korea

MAC Meeting on Tunnel Investigation Demanded

SK2703131890 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1200 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Major General Choe Ui-ung, senior member of our side to the Military Armistice Commission [MAC], sent the following telephone message today to the senior member of the U.S. side in connection with the fact that on 26 March, the latter sent the former a letter refusing our proposal to make an on-the-spot investigation of the so-called fourth tunnel and insisting on a secretaries' meeting:

We have already demanded that, since our proposal to dispatch a large-scale on-the-spot investigation team to a place where there is allegedly a so-called fourth tunnel was set forth at a MAC meeting, and because responsibility for solving this problem lies on the senior members, you yourself should come to a MAC meeting and responsibly clarify your official stand toward the proposal.

In the letter, however, you again refused our proposal and talked only about a secretaries' meeting.

Agreeing upon basic matters between senior members at a MAC meeting and then discussing relevant practical matters at a secretaries' meeting are the demands of the Armistice Agreement and the agreements reached between the two sides, a practice which has long been abided by, and a natural procedure. In view of its character and content, the tunnel incident is a matter to be discussed and settled between the senior members of the two sides.

This notwithstanding, your side has failed to accept our proposal to dispatch a large-scale on-the-spot investigation team, and has unilaterally published distorted reports, insisting on only a secretaries' meeting. This cannot be viewed as anything other than essentially a virtual refusal of a scientific, full-scale, on-the-spot investigation of the tunnel and a base trick to frame a plot to cover up the truth of the incident by dragging things out.

If you are willing to respond to a large-scale on-the-spot investigation, you should appear at a MAC meeting and give official answers to our basic demands for including experts in the fact-finding team, for using our four helicopters in the transport of the on-the-spot team, for guaranteeing the safety of our side's personnel and transport means and their free activities, and for conducting our side's fact-finding team by yourself, senior member.

If your side agrees on our proposal, we will discuss practical procedural matters at a secretaries' meeting at any time.

We are in full preparations to send a large-scale fact-finding investigation team to make a scientific and all-round investigation of the so-called fourth tunnel.

Message Conveyed to ROK Red Cross by Telephone

SK2803033390 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0300 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, has sent a telephone message to the president of the South Korean Red Cross Society. The telephone message reads:

To Kim Sang-hyop, president of the Korean [Tachan] Red Cross Society:

I will send two liaison officials to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom at 1500 on Thursday, 29 March, to convey a letter addressed to the National Democratic Alliance of Korea [Chonminnyon] of South Korea according to the request of the North side's Preparatory Committee for Pan-national Conference. I want your side to take a corresponding step to this.

[Signed] Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society
[Dated] 28 March 1990

Journalists Accuse ROK Media of 'Fabrication'

SK2803061690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0413 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Korean Journalists Union on March 27 released an indictment exposing to the conscience of the pressmen and the intellectuals all over the world who champion justice the lies, distortion and fabrication of the subsidized media of South Korea serving the authorities as a political waiting maid.

Pointing out that the South Korean authorities are inveigling the pseudo press into the creation of "two Koreas" and the execution of their "northern policy" to make false propaganda, the indictment says:

On September 28, 1989, "radio No. 1" of South Korea reported that the U.N. secretary general, when he met with the South Korean "foreign minister," told the latter that he "will do his utmost" for "the separate entry of South Korea into the United Nations." But it was not long before the fact was made clear. On October 3 that year, the spokesman for the U.N. secretary general stated at a news briefing for press officials in New York that "the U.N. secretary general did not express his view at all on the problem of the U.N. membership of South Korea."

On November 3, 1989, the first vice-director of the Information Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry

stressed that the reports of the South Korean subsidized press that the Soviet Union had changed its principled stand toward the problem of "the separate entry of South Korea into the United Nations" were "groundless."

Recently the South Korean paid media published a fake report that the South Korean "foreign minister" would have talks with his Soviet counterpart at the United Nations only to be promptly refuted by the party concerned. On February 27, 1990, the first deputy representative of the Soviet Union to the United Nations declared that "such talks are impossible," adding "all the South Korean reports are full of lies."

Making a sheerly fabricated report about the contact between diplomats of the DPRK and the United States in China on January 5, "radio No. 1" of South Korea on January 6 said that the U.S. councillor mentioned the "opening of the North." In this regard, the U.S. side admitted that the report of the South Korean paid media was a complete distortion inconsistent with fact.

Some time ago, the subsidized media reported that the South Korean authorities would open Moscow-Beijing-Shanghai-Seoul air links according to an "agreement" with the Soviet Union and China. However, on March 5, a competent official of the Chinese civil aviation dismissed this report, stating that "the Chinese Government does not want the opening of Seoul-Beijing air services. Such air links cannot be opened."

All the facts show that the paid media of South Korea is the executor of the anti-reunification policy of the South Korean authorities for perpetuating the division of the nation and the mouthpieces of the splittists.

The South Korean authorities are zealously setting in motion the press media for false propaganda to incite confrontation between the North and the South and justify their anti-national acts.

A spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry who participated in the Manila meeting of pressmen on February 18, 1990, told a news conference on the spot that he had seen at first hand the concrete wall near Panmunjom. But "radio No. 1" of South Korea aired the lie that he stated there exists "a wall symbolic of mutual distrust between the North and the South," not the concrete wall. A REUTER reporter who had taken part in the above-mentioned press conference reported that the spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry said he had seen with his own eyes a very big wall near Panmunjom, "to expose the lie of the South Korean paid media."

The South Korean reporters on the "government's" payroll are getting overheated in spreading false reports, singing duet with the authorities in the row over what they call the "fourth tunnel incident." This false report was dragged into the light of day when the U.S. side evaded our side's demands for a spot investigation into the "tunnel" at the 455th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission.

The above materials are only a part of the countless false reports of the South Korean newspapers, radios and news agencies.

The fact that the South Korean press has been brought under the strict control of the "government" and no small number of pressmen are serving power as its waiting maids, discarding the conscience of intellectuals, well shows how tightly the dark hands of the fascist "government" is gripping the press in South Korea.

As was widely exposed to the world by "MAL," organ of the Council of Democratic Press Movement, the South Korean authorities impose written instruction called "guideline of press" upon press organs daily and hourly and the daily edition of the newspapers, radios and news agencies is decided according to them.

The Central Committee of the Korean Journalists Union accuses the South Korean paid media of their criminal distortion of truth and hopes that the pressmen of broad circles and intellectuals of the world will merge their voices in exposing the acts of insulting the noble press.

Gregg, Menetrey's Remarks on Team Spirit Decried

*SK2803080790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1150 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Aggressors' Brigandish Logic"]

[Text] According to a report, on 24 March the puppets arranged a so-called reception in Seoul's Grand Hotel for soldiers of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces who had participated in the Team Spirit-90 war exercise. At the reception, Gregg, the U.S. ambassador to Seoul, babbled that the U.S. Forces in South Korea have contributed to preserving peace on the Korean peninsula. At the same place Menetrey, commander of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea, also babbled that the Team Spirit joint military exercise has reaffirmed unwavering U.S. support for the South Korean people's efforts to defend so-called freedom and national sovereignty.

This brazen-faced trick is designed to justify the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea and their maneuvers for aggression against it. The U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea is a most barbarous act against the Korean people's national sovereignty. The U.S. imperialists have occupied South Korea by force of arms and have forced national division upon our people for almost half a century. They have been perpetrating all sorts of tyranny and wicked acts as the colonial ruler over South Korea.

But for the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea, our country would not be divided into two, and the Korean people in the North and the South would live happily in a reunified land.

All misfortunes and disasters that the South Korean people are suffering today clearly show that the U.S.

imperialists are not the protectors of the South Korean people but are vicious violators and aggressors against their national sovereignty.

The U.S. imperialists' clamoring that their occupation of South Korea is to defend South Korea's sovereignty is indeed preposterous. Gregg's brazen-faced remarks that the Team Spirit war exercise has contributed to preserving peace on the Korean peninsula are also preposterous and shameless.

The Team Spirit-90 war exercise of the U.S. imperialists and the puppets is now being frantically staged. The Team Spirit-90 war exercise, in which a large number of military troops, nuclear weapons, and up-to-date war equipment are being mobilized, is virtually a test nuclear war, a preliminary war designed to invade the northern half of the Republic. This has been proven by the recently-conducted amphibious operations in Pohang, which were conducted under the support of an aircraft carrier, a battle ship, and many landing ships from the U.S. Seventh Fleet and numerous airplanes; a large-scale joint river-crossing exercise; a nuclear surprise attack exercise for bomb dropping practice; an aerial attack exercise; and other exercises.

Because of the Team Spirit-90 war exercise, South Korea has become a battle site. It is clear to everyone that such a commotion playing with fire includes the danger of it turning into an all-out war at any moment. The public at home and abroad has expressed great concerns over the fact that a tense situation in which war may break out at any time has been created on the Korean peninsula. This is by no means accidental.

The U.S. imperialists are precisely the ringleaders who are leading the situation to the brink of war while disturbing peace on the Korean peninsula. Nevertheless, the rascals babbled that the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea and war maneuvers have contributed to preserving peace and the like. This is indeed a brigandish logic that can be clamored about only by the U.S. imperialists.

No matter what sophistry they may utter, the U.S. imperialists cannot justify their occupation of South Korea and war maneuvers. The U.S. imperialists' jargon, which cannot fool anyone, is intended to keep South Korea as their colony and military base permanently and, by using it as a springboard, to realize their vicious ambition for a northward invasion.

The U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea and their war maneuvers will receive stronger condemnation and rejection from the people at home and abroad. The U.S. imperialists should renounce their reckless ambition for a northward invasion and should immediately withdraw from South Korea, taking along all aggression armed forces, including nuclear weapons.

Writer Labels President Bush 'Nuclear Fanatic'

SK2803102190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT
28 Mar 90

["Design of Nuclear Fanatic Unchanged"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—U.S. President Bush on March 23 proposed to appropriate 4.5 billion dollars for the "Star Wars" program in fiscal 1991 beginning October 1, which is 25 percent above that in the present fiscal year.

This clearly tells that Bush is making desperate efforts to get military and nuclear supremacy, although he is quite loud-mouthed about "an end to the cold war" and "arms cut," says MINJU CHOSON in a commentary today.

The news analyst notes:

Bush is zealously seeking increased appropriations to the "Star Wars" program when arms reduction is taking place worldwide and voices demanding a cut in military spendings are ringing louder in the United States, too. This helps us see his bellicose nature and proves that the "peace," "detente" and "disarmament" cried for by the U.S. imperialists are nothing but a smokescreen to mislead public opinion within and without and cover up their nuclear arms buildup.

Their nuclear war moves are an open challenge to and a crime against the desire of the world people for peace and security and the demand of the times.

Bush must not pursue the adventurous nuclear war and world supremacy but choose to cut arms as demanded by the world people.

U.S.-ROK 'Chemical Warfare' Exercises Alleged

SK2803055090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean military fascist clique staged joint chemical, biological and radioactive exercises on March 26, according to a report.

In the war game held under the signboard of "increasing the capability to discharge the main duties of units" in the chemical warfare, the U.S. imperialists and their stooges kicked up a row, sounding an air-raid alarm and, at the same time, firing tear gas canisters and smoke shells to create a terror-ridden atmosphere reminiscent of "a real war."

A series of war games the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean military fascist clique are staging while going ahead with the "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises prove how frenzied the U.S. imperialists are getting to ignite a war of aggression in Korea.

U.S. Plan To Sell F-18 Planes to South Assailed*SK2803054290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists decided to sell 120 "F-18" fighter planes worth 3.5 billion dollars based in Europe to the South Korean puppets, anticipating a success of "the talks on conventional arms reduction," according to a report.

This scheme is a vicious challenge to the entire Korean people who are fighting for an earlier independent and peaceful reunification of the country, eagerly longing for it.

Their crimes in building up the armed forces of the puppets and steadily aggravating the tensions on the Korean peninsula indicate that "peace" and "detente" on their lips are a lie. Their crimes also show that their real intention is to realise their aggressive world strategy by coiling up tensions and starting a war of aggression on the Korean peninsula.

Paper Analyzes U.S.-Japanese 'Trade Friction'*SK2803102690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article analyses the ever worsening trade friction between the United States and Japan. The relations between the two countries are characterized by friction and antagonism and commonness of interests in the anti-communist, anti-socialist moves, it notes, and continues:

The trade friction between them is growing acute mainly because Japan's tremendous trade surplus with the United States does not diminish.

The typical features of the trade war between the United States and Japan are that the U.S. is forcing its will upon Japan and the latter is assuming a low posture to it.

The United States is strengthening protectionism against Japan, threatening quite often that it would apply sanctions against her.

Article 301 of the trade act is the main weapon the United States is brandishing in its trade friction with Japan.

Not uttering a word of protest to this pressure of the United States, the Japanese ruling quarters are cudgeling their brains to seek a way of satisfying the demands of the United States.

The present Japanese authorities have an axe to grind in rolling up their sleeves to settle the trade friction with the United States.

Not a few persons belonging to different factions covet the post of the prime minister. Such being situation, Kaifu is trying to settle at any cost the trade friction with the United States in a bid to consolidate his leadership

and win support at home and abroad. It is an invariable intention of the Japanese reactionaries to realise their wild ambition for overseas aggression with the backing of the United States. Hence, the Japanese reactionaries exercise utmost caution not to damage their relations with the United States under any circumstances.

Urged by their desire for overseas expansion, the Japanese authorities are trying to maintain good relationship with the United States by settling the trade friction even at the sacrifice of the interests of their own country.

Article on Japanese Military, Economic Goals*SK2703105190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT
27 Mar 90*

["Japanese Militarism Dreaming of 'Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in an article today deals with the militaristic reinvasion designs of the Japanese reactionaries to gain supremacy in Asia and realise their old dream of the "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere," which are getting more unscrupulous with each passing day.

The author of the article says:

The Japanese ruling quarters are openly revealing their ulterior intention to raise the position of Japan as "a main power in the post-cold war international order" and play a "leading role worldwide" and claiming that Japan should possess "military capacity commensurate with her economic potentials" and assume "worldwide responsibility" as "an international state" to this end.

This tells that Japan which has become the second biggest economic power in the capitalist world wants to appear on the scene as a "military and political power" commensurate with it and exerts not only economic but also military influence upon the world issues.

It is Asia that Japan has chosen as the main theatre of its big role as "an international state."

The Japanese reactionaries feel great urgencies to send out their own military strength for defence of the security of the huge amount of capital and economic interests lying scattered in Asia.

Hence the successive rulers of Japan have stepped up the building of Japan into a military power, giving precedence to arms buildup. The Kaifu Cabinet allotted 4,160 billion yen in the military budget for fiscal 1990. This figure means an increase of 6.1 percent above last year, the highest rate of growth of military spendings in the world.

The Japanese "Self-Defense Forces" [SDF] have grown to be the world's leading aggression forces.

The Japanese reactionaries are stepping up war preparations, expanding the operational zone, switching over to the strategy of forestalling strikes, carrying on extensive arms buildup and modernising military equipment.

The Japanese "SDF" armed with combat equipment of latest types are staging hectic military exercises and are getting ready for "emergency mobilisation" to plunge into battlefields any moment.

The arrow of the first attack of the Japanese armed forces for overseas aggression is aimed at Korea.

The main purpose pursued by the Japanese reactionaries in strengthening the U.S.-Japan-South Korea triangular military system of aggression and frequently staging U.S.-Japan joint military exercises around Korea is to hurl the Japanese Armed Forces into another Korean war.

The Japanese reactionaries intend to raise the curtain of the imperialist armed invasion and realise their old dream of the "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" by taking part in a war of aggression provoked by the U.S. imperialists in Korea.

Japan's army buildup and war preparations pose as a grave threat to peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

The arms buildup and drive at war are a disastrous road to self-destruction of Japan, the paper warns, adding:

the Japanese ruling quarters should bear in mind the historical lesson and act with discretion.

Media Note Kim Il-song's Anti-Japanese Struggle

SK2703103890 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT*
27 Mar 90

["Development of Anti-Japanese Armed Struggle in Scope and Yaoyinggou Meeting"—KCNA headline]

[Text] *Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA)*—It is 55 years since the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, in the period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, called a meeting of military and political cadres of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army [KPRA] at Yaoyinggou [spelling as received] (March 21-27, 1935) and delivered the historic speech "On Relinquishing the Guerrilla Zones and Advancing Over Wide Areas."

NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today run signed articles on this anniversary.

The Yaoyinggou meeting was a meeting of great significance through which Comrade Kim Il-song performed immortal feats in saving the Korean revolution from a crisis, strengthening the unity and cohesion of the revolutionary ranks and further developing the anti-Japanese armed struggle in scope, says NODONG SINMUN.

In his speech Comrade Kim Il-song, on the basis of a scientific analysis of the changed situation of the revolution and the requirement of the developing anti-Japanese armed struggle, put forward a new strategic policy to relinquish the liberated zones-guerrilla bases established in the areas along the Tuman River and move the KPRA units to vast areas to go over to an active offensive.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said:

"Now we have the urgent task of following up these valuable successes and experience so as to further the revolutionary struggle. This task requires that we leave the limited guerrilla zones and launch into wider areas for large-scale guerrilla operations."

At the meeting the great leader set forth a new strategic policy of dismantling the guerrilla zones and moving the units of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army into extensive areas and indicated concrete ways and immediate tasks to this end.

He taught that the KPRA units should launch into vast expanses of Manchuria and the northern part of Korea and conduct large-scale guerrilla operations to deal telling political and military blows at the enemy and, at the same time, conduct energetic organizational and political work among the broad masses in all places.

At the meeting he finally put a period to the question of the anti-"Minsaengdan" struggle which had done tremendous harm to the unity and cohesion of the revolutionary ranks and landed the revolution in a crisis then, and indicated the fundamental principles to be adhered to in this struggle.

The new strategic policies set forth at the meeting made it possible to thwart the enemy's attempts in advance and rapidly expand and intensify the anti-Japanese armed struggle as they most correctly reflected the changed military and political situation and the objective requirements of the Korean revolution.

The historical Yaoyinggou meeting proved the validity of the great leader's consistent *chuche*-based revolutionary line and strategic and tactical policies and demonstrated the steadfast stand of the Korean communists to hold fast to the revolutionary banner of *chuche*, stressed the paper.

Vice-President Heads Delegation to Syria

SK2703111690 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT*
27 Mar 90

[Text] *Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA)*—A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president, left here on March 27 to visit Syria.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and vice-president, Kil Chae-kyong, vice-director of a department the C.C., the WPK, the Syrian and Pakistani ambassadors and the councillor of the Chinese Embassy here.

O Chin-u Congratulates Afghanistan's Watanjar*SK2703111090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT
27 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA)—Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of national defence of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The message extended warm congratulations to him upon his appointment as national defence minister and expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples and armies would continue developing favourably.

It wished the minister great success in discharging his responsible duty to increase the defence capabilities of the country.

Vice Foreign Minister Meets GDR Ambassador*SK2703214690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT
27 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA)—Kang Sok-chu, first vice-minister of foreign affairs, today met and conversed with Klaus Zorn, newly-appointed ambassador e.p. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] of the German Democratic Republic to Korea, who paid a courtesy call on him.

Literature Delegation Leaves on China Visit*SK2703112290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT
27 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA)—A delegation of the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Art of Korea [GFULAK] led by Kim Yong-won, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Federation, left here Tuesday to visit China.

It was seen off by Choe Yong-hwa, first vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the GFULAK, and an official of the Chinese Embassy here.

Greetings Sent to Mali on MPDU's Anniversary*SK2703133590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1200 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[Text] The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] sent a congratulatory message to General Moussa Traore, general secretary of the Malian People's Democratic Union [MPDU] and president of the Republic of Mali, on the 11st anniversary of the founding of the MPDU.

The message reads as follows:

Bamako:

To Your Excellency Gen Moussa Traore, general secretary of the the MPRU and president of the Republic of Mali:

In the name of the members of the WPK and all Korean people, we sent warm congratulations to you, the members of your union, and your people on the occasion of the 11st anniversary of the founding of the friendly MPDU.

Under your correct leadership, the MPDU has attained great success over the past period by conducting energetic activities to achieve national unity and build a new independent society. We rejoice as our own over success attained by your union and highly assess it.

Availing myself of this opportunity, we are convinced that the excellent friendly and cooperative relations between our two parties and peoples will continue to expand and develop in the future for global peace and in conformity with the common interests of the two peoples, and wholeheartedly wish you greater success in your work to strengthen the union as the guiding political force of the country and increase its role.

[Signed] WPK Central Committee
[Date] 26 March 1990, Pyongyang

Drama on Factional Strife To Play in Moscow*SK2703215390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500 GMT
27 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA)—"Three Pretenders," a Korean revolutionary drama, will be staged in a drama festival scheduled in Moscow in April.

This drama presents sarcastic, humorous scenes of three self-seeking sectarians fighting among themselves, biting and beating each other, in a bid to mount the throne, only to meet their doom together.

While exciting the laughter of the audience, it impressively tells the philosophical principle that the factional strife leads to national ruins and that unity is the key to victory.

It consists of prologue and five scenes.

The drama, directed by Han Chin-sop, a famous Korean people's actor, with people's actor Yu Ha-yong and merited actors Pak Tae-hyon and Hong Wal-cho and actor No Kyong-so starring, is noted for its high ideological and artistic value.

The drama "Three Pretenders" is an immortal classic masterpiece personally created by the great leader President Kim Il-song and performed in the 1920s during the early period of his revolutionary activities.

More than half a century later, it was rehashed and put on stage. It has since become a favorite of the audience, for its strong appeal.

The state theatrical company has given more than 320 performances over a little more than two years since the premiere in early August, 1987.

Korean-Nigerian Friendship Gathering Held

SK2803053690 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 0435 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—The Korea-Nigeria Friendship Association organised a friendship gathering here on March 27 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the formation of the association.

Present there were Song Chae-song, first vice-minister of higher education and chairman of the association, the charge d'affaires a.i. [ad interim] and officials of the Nigerian Embassy here the attendants saw the performance of children and deepened the feelings of friendship, playing amusement games.

Enhancement of Propagandists' Role Stressed

SK2803004390 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
0007 GMT 26 Mar 90

[NODONG SINMUN 26 March editorial: "Let Us Further Enhance the Role of Five Household Propagandists in Conformity With the Demands of the March of the Nineties"]

[Text] The national meeting of activists of agitators and five household propagandists has ended. The current activists' meeting, which was held at an exciting time when a new general march movement is being vigorously waged to effect a great revolutionary upsurge in socialist construction, was a meeting of great significance in improving and strengthening the party's agitation and propaganda work in conformity with the demands of the developing reality. The recently held activists' meeting clearly demonstrated the correctness and the great vitality of the unique propaganda and agitation of our party and the wisdom of the leadership of the party which creates and develops the glorious tradition of the mass agitation work.

Accelerating the revolution and construction through spurring creative zeal among the masses is a consistent policy that our party has adhered to since the early days of its founding. Attaching preferential significance to political work among the masses, agitation work among the masses, our party has constantly improved its content, form, and methods according to the deepening of socialist construction. In particular, an epochal change was effected in our party's ideological work, propaganda and agitation work, in the seventies and the eighties.

The dear Comrade Kim Chong-il has wisely led our people to do away with all old forms and to aggressively and vigorously carry out propaganda and agitation work, closely linking it with practical struggle. He has also established an orderly agitation work system throughout the country and provided strong and powerful propaganda and agitation forces in all sectors and units.

The agitation work system and the five household propagandist system of our party established in all production sites are a unique and superior propaganda and agitation system of our own style. On the strength of these work systems, agitation and propaganda activities are being vigorously waged in every place where there are the masses and where production and construction are carried out.

The five household propagandist system which was created by the great leader and which has been deepened and developed by our party is a mighty propaganda method which makes it possible to accelerate the historic cause for removing the distinctions between urban areas and rural areas by rapidly enhancing the ideological and cultural level of peasants. The correctness and might of the five household propagandist system have been proven in practice.

The activists' meeting this time marked an important occasion in actively encouraging and spurring all party members and the working people to effect a great new revolutionary upsurge in socialist construction by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. Today, we are faced with the heavy task of effecting a new upsurge in production and construction by increasing production and practicing conservation to the maximum upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address of this year and the decision of the party plenary session.

The decisive key to victory in today's march movement to create the new speed of the nineties is precisely to unstintedly organize and mobilize the high revolutionary zeal and creative power of all of the people. The activists' meeting clearly elucidated tasks and ways to conduct propaganda and agitation work in conformity with the demands of today's reality and vigorously appealed to all of the primary-level functionaries to do their fair share in the struggle for the realization of these tasks and ways. Because of this the activists' meeting has become a meeting which is of important significance in implementing our party's firm and invariable determination to effect a new great revolutionary upsurge in the march of the nineties.

We should vigorously struggle to effect a decisive turning point in the propaganda and agitation work by upholding the spirit of the national meeting of activists of agitators and five household propagandists. What is important here is to further enhance the sense of responsibility and the role of all agitators and five household propagandists.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, has indicated: To improve and strengthen the party's propaganda and agitation work it is important to enhance the role of propaganda functionaries, including lecturers for study guidance, lecturers for lecture guidance, agitators, and five household propagandists.

Agitators and five household propagandists are reliable primary-level propaganda functionaries of our party and are outpost troopers of the party's ideological front who breathe and work amid the masses. All agitators and five household propagandists should always cherish deep in their hearts expectations and trust of the party which has assigned the honorable task to them and should brilliantly embody the party's slogan, "Agitators and five household propagandists should become thorough protectors, propagandists, and executors of the party's policy."

All agitators and five household propagandists should actively wage their propaganda and agitation activities in the spirit and mettle of having made the whole country seethe with struggle, progress, leap, and innovation in the period of the great upsurge of chollima by waging the excited agitation activities of firmly grasping and moving the hearts of the masses. Thus, they should lead the whole country to seethe with the flames of innovation for the creation of the speed of the nineties and should see to it that numerous forerunners of remodeling man and standard bearers of innovation emerge among themselves.

Agitators and five household propagandists should concentrate their main efforts on the agitation work to foster party members and the working people to become indomitable revolutionary fighters of the nineties who are infinitely loyal to the party and the leader. Our agitators and five household propagandists should plan, organize, and conduct the work of inculcating the masses with historical materials, today's reality, and other various materials regarding how our people have traversed their dignified road holding the great leader in high esteem, how our people have been able to demonstrate their national glory and dignity to the world, and what basic turning point has been effected in their lives and in shaping their destinies. Thus, our agitators and five household propagandists should see to it that all party members and the working people become genuine communist revolutionaries of the *chuche* type who firmly trust and follow only the party under any difficult circumstances and who can jump into fire and water in the course of defending and embodying the party's ideology and policy.

Along with this, our agitators and five household propagandists should also inculcate deep among party members and the working people the superiority and invincible vitality of socialism of our own style that our people have chosen themselves and developed. Thus, our agitators and five household propagandists should see to it that our party members and the working people have high dignity over their political, material, and ideological and cultural life, precious and valuable lives which are not replaceable and comparable.

Our agitators and five household propagandists should wage agitation work in a substantial manner through the glorious history of the revolution of our party, the numerous revolutionary relics and remains, and the

slogan-bearing trees that have been discovered recently. They should do this in order to ensure that the great vitality of the revolutionary tradition is highly enhanced in all fields of socialist construction.

For agitators and five household propagandists to make the whole country seethe with the struggle to create the speed of the nineties, it is also important to more highly reverberate the drum-beating of economic agitation. The sectors on which the firepower of economic agitation should be concentrated at present are the power industry, the coal industry, the light industry, the dwelling house construction sector, and other sectors on which our party is now concentrating efforts. Those agitators who work in these sectors and units should solve pending problems first, always jump into the battle sites ahead of others, and, thus, open a breakthrough of march through vigorous economic agitation work.

Along with this, our agitators and five household propagandists should not conduct their agitation work in a campaign manner but, rather, they should conduct it at all times. In other words they should conduct it when the working people are coming to work and going home after work and while they are working and taking a break. They should conduct it at any time and at any place. Thus, they should see to it that powerful voices calling for the working people to perform exploits reverberate vigorously.

What is important for our agitators and five household propagandists vigorously waging propaganda and agitation activities in conformity with the party's intent is to conduct their activities in a substantial manner so that high effectiveness can be produced from them. While waging their propaganda and agitation activities, agitators and five household propagandists should repress work attitudes that attach more importance to form than content, as well as attitudes that merely make up the number of the activities. Also, even though they may wage agitation work only one time, they should wage it with animation and zest in conformity with the specific situation in their units, workshops, or work teams so that listeners are deeply impressed by what they are listening to.

Agitators and five household propagandists should renew the form, method, and content of their economic agitation in conformity with the demands of the constantly changing reality and in conformity with the taste of the nineties. They should wage propaganda and agitation activities by correctly combining various forms of agitation. In other words, when agitation speech or explanation and dialogue is required, an impressive oral agitation should be vigorously presented. When agitation is required to spur the working people's production desire with slogans or with battle bulletins, visual-aid agitation should be presented. Also, various other forms of agitation and propaganda work, such as briefing sessions on the reminiscences of anti-Japanese guerrillas and meetings to get inspirations from art films, should be waged in a substantial manner.

Party organizations at all levels should firmly consolidate the ranks of agitators and five household propagandists, should put them at the forefront, and should properly help and lead them so that they can vigorously wage their propaganda and agitation activities. The party's expectations for agitators and five household propagandists are great. All agitators and five household propagandists should actively contribute to the struggle to create the speed of the nineties by smoothly performing their roles with the high dignity of working in the outposts of the party's ideological work.

Chong Chun-ki Attends Heat Controllers Meeting

SK2803050690 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 0443 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—A national meeting of active heat controllers was held in Hamhung on March 27.

It was attended by Chong Chun-ki, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party [WPK] of Korea and vice-premier of the Administration Council, Hong Si-hak, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, chief secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee, Choe Tae-pok, secretary of the party Central Committee, Kim Hwan, vice-premier of the Administration Council, and others.

It reviewed the achievements and experiences gained in the heat control as intended by the party and discussed the measures to hasten the advance of the first year in the 90s through a dynamic drive for the maximum increased production and economies.

It pointed out that the bases for the production of heat energy equipment have been firmly built and local fuel and power resources including low-calory and sapropelic coals actively developed to lay a powerful material and technical foundation for putting the heat control on a chuche basis and a remarkable success has been made in the struggle to implement the party's policy for making a more effective use of energy resources and replacing the processes consuming much fuel with less fuel consuming processes.

It underscored the need to solve the problem of heat energy with domestic resources by making the best use of the locally available heat energy resources so that the demands of the national economy for heat energy may be fully met.

It also called for actively developing and utilizing solar energy and heat of the earth and regenerated energy resources and taking measures to use agro-stock leftovers and biological energy.

A resolution and an appeal to the workers in the field of heat control across the country were adopted at the meeting.

New Coal Mines Discovered in Kangdong

SK2603215490 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 1512 GMT
26 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 26 (KCNA)—Coal veins have of late been discovered in Chunbi, Togol and Kangdong areas of the Kangdong district coal mining complex in central western Korea.

According to Cho Chong-hyong, head of the Kangdong Geological Prospecting Corps, the total deposits of those coal veins scores of metres in width amount to tens of millions of tons and several coal mines and pits will be built there.

With their discovery, the production capacity of the Kangdong district coal mining complex will markedly increase.

South Korea

Kim Yong-sam Hints at No Tae-u Visit to USSR

SK2803090590 *Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean*
28 Mar 90 p 1

[By correspondent Yi Kyu-chin from Tokyo]

[Excerpts] Members of the Korean delegation—including the cochairman of the Democratic Liberal Party, Kim Yong-sam—which has concluded a visit to Moscow, reportedly have achieved great progress in negotiations with the Soviet side over the establishment of diplomatic relations. The delegates reportedly have agreed with the Soviet side to establish formal diplomatic relations between Korea and the Soviet Union at the ambassadorial level before the end of this year. They also are reported to have come close to agreeing with the Soviet side that the Soviets will invite President No Tae-u to visit the USSR before the end of his presidential term.

Negotiations as such are reported to have been conducted between the Korean Government officials and their Soviet counterparts. According to this agreement, the Korean Government reportedly will consult with the members of the delegation upon returning from the Soviet Union. The Korean Government then will start official negotiations at the governmental level with the Soviet side. [passage omitted]

In talking about the possible date for the signing of an agreement on establishing formal diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, Cochairman Kim told a press conference held aboard a returning plane from Moscow to Tokyo on 28 March. "Although I could even tell you when our two countries will sign an agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations, I will not do so because you reporters already have written too much about it."

He then hinted that during his visit Korea has achieved great success in negotiations with the Soviet side. He also

hinted that the two countries will be able to sign an agreement on establishing diplomatic relations before the end of this year, saying: "I am convinced that the establishment of diplomatic relations will be realized in not-too-distant future."

Even after stating that "I cannot disclose what I had discussed with the major Soviet leaders, including Gorbachev, in view of diplomatic norms, and also because they are related to the national interest," Cochairman Kim said, "In our meeting, President Gorbachev made it clear that 'we have no obstacles of any kind between us' and suggested that 'the two sides vigorously push ahead.'"

Answering a question on whether or not the Soviet side has agreed to invite President No Tae-u to officially visit the Soviet Union before the end of this year at the earliest possible date, and at the latest before the end of his presidential term, Cochairman Kim said: We discussed far more important things than that. However, I cannot disclose them at this moment. I will report to President No on what we have discussed. [passage omitted]

Kim Yong-sam Holds News Conference on Visit

Admits Meeting With Gorbachev

*SK2803043090 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean
0300 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Text] Kim Yong-sam, co-leader of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], who is now on his way home after the eight-day visit to the Soviet Union, held a news conference aboard the plane on the way to Japan, where he is scheduled to stop over. During the conference, he gave his first official confirmation that he held talks with Soviet President Gorbachev.

Correspondent Ma Kwon-su reports on this in Tokyo.

[Begin Ma Kwon-su recording] Co-leader Kim Yong-sam, in a news conference held aboard the plane on his way home, disclosed for the first time that he held talks with President Gorbachev during his visit to the Soviet Union. He said that he would disclose everything after a consultation with President No Tae-u.

He added that a promise to the Soviet side was the reason why he had refrained from making his talks with President Gorbachev public.

Co-leader Kim Yong-sam said that he met President Gorbachev in the Kremlin at 0025 on 22 March, our country's time, and he and President Gorbachev reached a mutual agreement that the ROK and the Soviet Union should exuberantly and actively carry out all things because there are no obstacles for them. He added that he and President Gorbachev, on that occasion, discussed President No Tae-u as well. Thus, it has been disclosed that views were shared comprehensively at the talks over

the question of the ROK-Soviet diplomatic ties, the summit between the heads of the two countries, and North-South relations.

At the news conference, a reporter asked about what co-leader Kim and President Gorbachev first said at the talks and about his impression of President Gorbachev. According to co-leader Kim Yong-sam, President Gorbachev reportedly said: First of all, I welcome your visit to the Soviet Union. I have been kept informed of everything. Then, according to co-leader Kim, President Gorbachev, pointing to Primakov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Council of the Union, said: He is your friend, as well as mine, and will be entrusted with a very important mission.

As for his first impression of President Gorbachev, co-leader Kim Yong-sam said that he was not tall but he was magnificent, and was full of courage and self-confidence.

Over the specifics of the talks, co-leader Kim Yong-sam only said that he would hold a full discussion with President No Tae-u on 30 March.

Co-leader Kim Yong-sam said that his talks with President Gorbachev, in particular, would decisively influence peace on the Korean peninsula, and that the North Korean side would be treated not in a coercive manner but as a joint participant in dialogue. By saying this, he gave the impression that important talks were held on the question of improving North-South relations.

In conclusion, co-leader Kim said his successful visit to the Soviet Union is attributable to the people's interest and their warm support.

Co-leader Kim Yong-sam and his entourage will arrive in Seoul at 1730 tomorrow after staying one night in Japan and after meeting Ishita, chairman of the Clean Government Party, to discuss the pending issues between Korea and Japan. [end recording]

Summarizes Gorbachev's Position

*SK2803080490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0748 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 (YONHAP)—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told visiting South Korean ruling party co-leader Kim Yong-sam on March 21 there was no obstacle to ambassador-level ties between Seoul and Moscow and suggested the two sides promote normalization "vigorously," according to Kim.

Kim, aboard British Airways Flight 017 on his way from Moscow to Tokyo Wednesday morning, was speaking to reporters for the first time about his private encounter with Gorbachev in the Kremlin.

"In reply to my proposal for early establishment of diplomatic relations, Gorbachev told me there was no obstacle to our two nations completing early establishment of diplomatic relations," Kim said, adding that

Gorbachev proposed the two sides promote the issue "vigorously." Kim declined, however, to say any more about his talk with Gorbachev because he had promised the Soviets and still had to discuss the issue with President No Tae-u.

He strongly hinted that the two countries have reached an agreement on the timing of diplomatic ties, by saying, "Even though I can tell the timing now, I will decide whether to make an announcement on it after consulting with President No on Friday." He said there had been in-depth negotiations between his team and Soviet officials on the timing and that normalization was "in the near future."

He is scheduled to arrive in Seoul on Thursday.

He admitted that No had been invited to visit Moscow while he is president. Kim, who was in Moscow March 20-27 for the second time, said his trip had given momentum to the normalization process.

"Normalization of ties between the two nations would not only serve the interests of each country but would contribute to the peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, world peace and the prosperity of the people," he said.

Kim said his meeting with Gorbachev was requested by the Kremlin and that Federal Assembly Chairman Yevgeni Primakov was also present.

"I was received by Primakov and then Gorbachev came into the room where we were talking and we exchanged views for a time," he said. Without going into detail, Kim asserted that his meeting with Gorbachev would help advance reunification of the Korean peninsula and deter war on the peninsula.

Ruling party spokesman Pak Hui-tae denied a report that some members of Kim's entourage had gone to North Korea. Both Kim and Pak Chol-on, minister of state for political affairs, denied that some figures went to Pyongyang, Pak said. Rep. Chong Chae-mun, who was the only person missing from the plane, flew to the United States for a vacation one day before the others left Moscow, Pak said.

Seoul Looks Forward to Relations With USSR

SK2803040690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 28 Mar 90 p 2

[News analysis by correspondent Yi Song-yol: "USSR Pushing Ties With ROK, Considering N.K. Friendship"]

[Text] Moscow—Seoul-Moscow relations, which saw impressive improvement in the fields of economy, culture and sports in recent years, have entered into a new dimension heralding formal diplomatic ties in the not too distant future, in the wake of the successful visit to Moscow by a high-powered Korean delegation led by Kim Yong-sam, a co-leader of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party.

The highlight of Kim's weeklong visit to Moscow was a meeting between Kim and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that took place at the Kremlin. The unprecedented meeting, which lasted for about 50 minutes for talks on normalizing relations and economic cooperation, gave a gigantic boost to Seoul-Moscow relations which have recently made substantial progress in economic areas, in particular.

The meeting, the first ever between the Soviet leader and a south Korean political leader, may be seen as a signal that the Communist nation has begun to depart from the principle of ideological confrontation so far as Korea's division is concerned, critics said.

The Soviet Union, aware of the position taken by north Korea toward the south, has balked at official contacts with Seoul on a political level, although nonpolitical ties, especially in trade and economy, not to mention culture and sports, have been substantially upgraded. The meeting, critics said, is interpreted as a basic upset for this concept of a three-way relationship between Moscow, Seoul and Pyongyang.

But observers are concerned that north Korea remains a thorn in the side of Seoul-Moscow relations, although a meaningful meeting between the two could speed up normalization of relations. This concern was evident in Kim's meeting with Politburo member Aleksander Yakovlev, an influential foreign policy adviser to Gorbachev who was quoted as saying there is basically no insurmountable barrier to smoothing relations between the two countries.

Yakovlev, thought to be a right-hand man of the Soviet leader, accepted the need for a political consideration in upgrading ties and listed some elements as obstacles to improving relations. The remarks may be regarded as signaling that the Kremlin's basic position is that it will open formal relations but needs time to do so in consideration of its relations with Pyongyang.

Against this backdrop, Seoul and Moscow agreed to exchange permanent missions before they open full diplomatic ties. Under the agreement made shortly before Kim's departure from Moscow winding up his visit, the exchange will be made in September this year and the opening of ambassador-level diplomatic relations is likely to take place sometime early next year.

Permanent missions are usually set up under the provisions of the Vienna Convention and are regarded as official diplomatic representatives ranking above a consulate-general or trade representative.

But the two countries, in consideration of Moscow's relations with Pyongyang, agreed that the agreement would not be mentioned in a joint statement issued by Kim and the Soviet Institute for World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) Director Vladlen Martynov.

The statement, which was adopted a day before Kim and his entourage left Moscow after an eight-day visit at the invitation of IMEMO, the most important and influential think tank for the Soviet leadership, said that they have agreed to work for the early establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries while underscoring the need for ministerial-level talks at an earlier date to seek ways to solve the problems which are now hampering economic cooperation between their countries. The statement also expressed hope that the ruling parties of the two countries establish cooperative relations with each other to enhance cooperation in the political field.

The statement also said that improved relations between south Korea and the Soviet Union will be conducive to the promotion of south-north dialogue on the Korean Peninsula but stressed that the Seoul-Moscow relations should not hurt the interests of the third party, thereby hinting that the efforts to improve Seoul-Moscow relations should not be handled in such a manner as to have an adverse impact on the existing friendship between Moscow and Pyongyang.

All in all, Kim Yong-sam's visit to Moscow has borne fruit, thus paving the way for earlier normalization of bilateral ties as well as expansion of trade and economic ties. However, there remain many questions to be answered in practical terms as the two countries have quite a different political and economic backdrop which must be coordinated and compromised in the course of translating the ideals into action.

Soviet-Korean Councils Issue Joint Statement

SK2703122190 Seoul YONHAP in English 1042 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 27 (YONHAP)—The South Korea-Soviet Economic Cooperation Councils closed their second joint meeting Tuesday after adopting an 11-point joint statement focusing on accelerated bilateral cooperation in science and technology, joint participation in the development of Siberia and concerted efforts to expand trade between the two countries.

Chong Chu-yong, founder of the Hyundai Business Group, and Vladimir Golanov, first vice president of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who co-head the meeting, signed the joint statement ending a five-day joint session here.

The statement said the two sides have an identical view on the need for an investment guarantee and an agreement on prevention of double taxation in order to improve trade between the two nations.

They also agreed to hold a seminar, to be participated in by each other's scientists, engineers and businessmen, here in the second half of the year as their first bilateral scientific and technical cooperation project, it said.

It was also agreed to prepare measures for Korean small- and medium-sized companies to expand exports to the Soviet Union and to expand trading volume in the fields of industrial products and know-how.

In 1989, Korea's exports to the Soviet Union stood at 201 million U.S. dollars, while imports amounted to 390 million dollars.

The council will meet annually in each nation by turn. The next joint meeting will be held in Moscow in April 1991.

First Korean Plane Lands at Moscow Airport

SK2803034690 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] A Korean Air [KAL] Boeing 747 regular flight made a technical landing at Moscow Airport this morning for the first time in Korean civil aviation history.

The flight, KE903 bound for Frankfurt and Zurich, took off from the runway of Kimpo International Airport at 8:40 p.m. yesterday for the historical flight to the Soviet Union with which Korea has no full diplomatic ties yet.

The KAL flight flew over the East Sea, north of Niigata, Khabarovsk and the vast expanse of Siberia to land at Sheremetyev Airport in Moscow at 2:15 a.m. for refueling and air crew shifting.

KAL's regular flights bound for Paris, London and other West European cities began to use Soviet airspace from March 25 under the Korean-Soviet aviation accord but KE903 is the first flight which made a technical landing at Moscow Airport.

A total of nine KAL flights will fly over Soviet territory on their way to Western Europe weekly. Of them, the out flight will make a technical landing at Moscow and the other will fly to Moscow as a regular passenger service. KE913 bound for Amsterdam and Zurich will make business landings at Moscow every Sunday. The inaugural flight will leave Kimpo on March 31.

Meanwhile, the Soviet national airline Aeroflot has decided to add a stop in Shanghai when it starts service between Moscow and Seoul this Friday. Aeroflot notified Korean Air last weekend that it has changed its original plan to fly its airliners on the route linking Moscow and Seoul directly over Khabarovsk, Niigata and the East Sea. Aeroflot said a 132-seat Ilyushin-6 carrying passengers bound for Shanghai and Seoul will leave Moscow at 2 p.m. (KST) Thursday and arrive in Seoul at 1:10 p.m. next day.

Japan's KYODO news service reported Saturday that Aeroflot's planned flight service between Moscow and Seoul via Shanghai was to be postponed because of the slow progress in negotiations between Soviet and Chinese aviation authorities.

North Students in Moscow Ordered To Return Home

SK2803083290 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean
0800 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] In a bid to keep North Korean students studying in the Soviet Union from seeking exile in the ROK, North Korea is reported to have retrieved international passports from the students toward the end of last month and to have held those passports in custody.

A Soviet Government official in Moscow revealed that the North Korean Embassy in the Soviet Union had retrieved passports from the North Korean students staying in the USSR. The passports were seized out of fear that the students might attempt to seek exile in the ROK by taking advantage of the beginning of flights by Korean Air Lines to Moscow. The Soviet official also said North Korea has decided to order back to North Korea all students during the month of April.

This official also said that Son Song-pil, new North Korean ambassador in Moscow, is planning to call the students in to an educational meeting to prevent them from seeking exile. About 1,000 North Korean students are known to be studying at colleges and universities in 26 cities in the Soviet Union.

Student in USSR Criticizes North's Regime

SK2703025290 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 27 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] Tokyo—The recent wave of reforms in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe cannot reach north Korea because its society is structured so that students are unable to rise up against their government, the SANKEI SHIMBUN reported Sunday.

In an interview with an unidentified 24-year-old north Korean university student studying in the Soviet Union, SANKEI said the Communist north lags behind politically and economically to the south because every citizen sacrifices his or her life for the north Korean leader Kim Il-song.

The student, enrolled at an agricultural university, said about 80 north Korean collegians staying at the school dormitory get 92 rubles (approximately 100,000 won) for a monthly allowance, according to SANKEI. This, the student said, is not enough for clothing and daily necessities let alone food bills.

He told SANKEI he has met with south Koreans in Moscow and heard a great deal about current developments in south Korea. He said he also saw through TV and newspapers the changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

He sharply criticized the dictatorial regime of north Korea, according to SANKEI, and he wants to try his best to improve the way of living for his people after he goes back to the north when his studies are over.

People who graduate from a university (only those with "right kind" of ideology and party connections are allowed to go to universities) are guaranteed high positions, SANKEI quoted him as saying, and various privileges are given once they are in high positions.

The society is framed so that they dare not break the rules and destroy their own future, and it is extremely difficult for students to stand up against Kim Il-song, he said.

He also said Yim Su-kyong, a south Korean coed who went to Pyongyang last summer without government permission, probably committed such a rash act because she was too young.

North Rejects MAC Secretaries' Meeting Call

SK2803014490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0126 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 28 (YONHAP)—North Korea rejected Tuesday a call by the U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) for a meeting of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) Secretaries to discuss details of a joint probe of a tunnel that the South claims was dug by the North as an invasion route.

Maj. Gen. Choe Ui-ung, the head of the North Korean MAC delegation, said in a letter to U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Larry Vogt, his UNC counterpart, that the investigation should be dealt with by senior MAC delegates because of the event's contents and character, according to NAEWOE PRESS, a North Korea watcher in Seoul.

The tunnel, the fourth found since 1974, was intercepted by South Korean and U.S. engineers March 3 in the southern section of the Demilitarized Zone, which divides the Korean peninsula into the South and North.

North Korea proposed March 14 that it fly a 60-member team by four helicopters across the Military Demarcation Line to the spot where the fourth tunnel was exposed. Choe said in his letter that the MAC should work out the arrangements for North Korea's investigation. On Monday, the UNC proposed a MAC secretaries meeting in order to discuss a joint investigation, welcoming the North's proposal to send a team.

South Red Cross Dispatches Reply to DPRK

SK2803093190 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean
0900 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Kim Sang-hyop, president of the Korean National Red Cross, sent a letter this afternoon to Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of North Korea's Red Cross Society, asking the North to make efforts so that Mr. Han Pil-song can meet his elderly mother [in the North] at the earliest possible date. He had a liaison official at Panmunjom deliver the letter, along with a letter from Mr. Han.

In his letter, addressed to his younger sister Pil-hwa, Mr. Han Pil-song said that if she manages to obtain permission from the North Korean authorities for his mother to visit South Korea, he will send her a letter of invitation, after getting approval from our government authorities.

Mr. Han said in the letter that if this is impossible, he requests that a letter of invitation be sent to him so that he can visit North Korea. On 22 March, Mr. Han asked for governmental permission that he be allowed to visit North Korea, and the government has approved.

Sihanouk Doubts Kim Il-song Will Step Down

SK2803033090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
28 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Beijing (AFP)—Prince Norodon Sihanouk said here Tuesday that North Korean leader Kim Il-song was unlikely to hand over power to his son, Kim Chong-il, before he dies.

Prince Sihanouk, who returned here Monday after a five-day "goodwill visit" to Pyongyang, said it appeared that the senior Kim, 77, "had no plan to change the status quo. He will very probably remain the head of state of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea."

The Cambodian resistance leader said that "Mr. Kim Chong-il will always be his heir, to take power after his (father's) death."

Prince Sihanouk said that "When I saw (Kim Il-song) the other day, he was in very good shape," casting doubt on reports circulating among North Korean exiles in Seoul.

Kim Il-song has ruled North Korea since shortly after World War II and has been consistently reelected president since the office was created under a 1972 socialist constitution. He is also secretary general of the Korean Workers' Party. The younger Kim, whose succession to power has been the subject of speculation for the past decade, is in control of day-to-day affairs of state as number two man in the party.

The prince also told reporters he would be in Beijing for celebrations marking the Chinese national holiday on Oct. 1, after which he would visit Pyongyang "to pay respect to my best friend, Kim Il-song."

The former Cambodian monarch divided his 15 years in exile between North Korea and China, the two staunchest backers of the Cambodian resistance, and on Feb. 23 returned to Cambodia to set up a permanent anti-government base in resistance-controlled territory.

Possible 'Cosmetic' Changes in North Discussed

SK2303032690 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
23 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] The North Korean authorities are expected to take cosmetic reformatory measures to allow other parties to engage in political activities. North Korea's Workers' Party has monopolized power for more than four decades.

According to an article in the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, the measure is to be adopted during a general assembly of the Supreme People's Council in April. The weekly said in the article that the North Korean regime may have to take such reformatory measures, pressed by the overriding reforms now sweeping throughout the East European nations including the Soviet Union. Under the seeming reformatory measures, some political parties only in name may be given an elevated status even if it is nominal.

Quoting North Korean watchers, the article said the North Korean regime may not hurriedly rush to transfer power from Kim Il-song to his son Chong-il. According to the article, the North Korean regime is in trouble what with the pressing changes from outside and resultant estrangement from the world coupled with economic problems.

East Germany Proposes Consular Relations

SK2803053390 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean
0500 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] (YONHAP from Brussels) The East German Foreign Ministry disclosed that East Germany, which has for several months taken steps to expand exchanges between East Germany and the ROK in many fields, including trade, for the establishment of diplomatic relations with the ROK, has proposed to the ROK that the two countries establish consular relations immediately.

Dr. Dennis Ruhe, spokesman for the East German Foreign Ministry, stated this through the official bulletin on trends in foreign policy published by the East German Foreign Ministry.

Romanian Delegation Arrives To Discuss Ties

SK2803092690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0922 GMT
28 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 28 (YONHAP)—A Romanian Government delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Mircea Mitrau arrived in Seoul Wednesday on a mission to discuss establishing diplomatic ties between Seoul and Bucharest, the Foreign Ministry said.

The Romanians are scheduled to stay until April 2 for consultations on the establishment of ambassadorial relations with a team headed by Yi Choung-pin, the Korean assistant foreign minister for political affairs, the ministry said.

Seoul Encouraged by Ties With Mongolia

SK2803035490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 28 Mar 90 p 2

[News Analysis by staff reporter Kim Hye-won: "Seoul's Northern Diplomacy Bears Fruit With Mongolia Ties"]

[Text] The opening of new diplomatic ties with Mongolia is of special significance to Korea due to the nation's geographical, historical and cultural proximity to Korea as well as its close relations with North Korea. For its geographic location between China and the Soviet Union, normalized relations with Mongolia are also seen by many as a prelude to the establishment of diplomatic ties between Korea and the two socialist powers.

Some analysts say the establishment of diplomatic relations with Mongolia gains significance when reviewing the origin of the word "northern diplomacy," which has been a major foreign policy emphasis of the Sixth Republic. Although the word has been used to describe efforts to improve relations with socialist countries in general, it implies the government's new initiative for better relations with countries on the Asian continent including China and the Soviet Union, balancing the predominant power of the United States and Japan on the Korean Peninsula.

Therefore, they say, the series of policy steps for improving relations with East European countries can be seen as a detouring strategy to achieve diplomatic relations with the continental powers. The normalization of ties with Mongolia, a continental country, has brought the nation closer to the original purpose of its northern diplomacy, the analysts say.

Foreign Ministry officials also expect the relations with Mongolia to positively affect the government's efforts to improve ties with other Asian nations without diplomatic ties with Korea including Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

The officials said Korea and Mongolia began formal contacts in July 1987 through their embassies in Tokyo to talk about the country's participation in the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

The Korean side suggested the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two during the contacts, he said.

Korea also sent a private delegation to the country twice—in July 1989 and February 1990—to develop negotiations. The second delegation to Mongolia included a high-ranking Korean diplomat. Assistant Foreign Minister Yi Ki-chu and other diplomats arrived there Saturday as the Mongolian ambassador to Tokyo invited a Korean government delegation March 16.

Foreign Ministry officials, however, confess that they, too, were surprised at the fast pace of the development of negotiations. When Assistant Minister Yi left Seoul, they say, they expected him to at best initial the agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations. The officials thought that the conclusion of the negotiations would be possible when a Mongolian delegation visits Seoul later.

Unlike the expectations, Yi and Mongolian First Vice Foreign Minister Yondon signed a protocol for setting up diplomatic ties between the two countries in Ulaanbaator Monday.

"Their active approach was encouraging to us, considering the country's close relations with North Korea and its hard-line socialist policies until recently," the officials say.

Pro-Pyongyang Group Arrives From Japan

SK2703033290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
27 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] A group of 268 pro-North Korean residents in Japan arrived here yesterday for a month-long home visit to observe Hansik when sacrificial food is offered at ancestral graves.

They will sightsee around Seoul and take a tour of the nation's major industrial facilities before visiting their respective hometowns for Hansik that falls on April 6 this year.

Yesterday's arrivals were the first batch of 860 home visitors from Chochongnyon, a pro-Pyongyang group of Korean residents in Japan, who are scheduled to fly in by tomorrow.

Koreans Seek World War Compensation From Japan

OW2603154290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1415 GMT
26 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 26 KYODO—South Korean victims and surviving families of soldiers forced to fight for Japan in World War II gathered here Monday to demand that Japan compensate them for their hardship. Backed by both South Korean and Japanese lawyers, the group finalized plans to bring the suit before an international court if their demands are rejected by the Japanese Government.

The gathering of some 350 victims and supporters declared void a 1965 South Korean-Japanese pact which relinquished individual damage claims and provided limited compensation to some 9,000 people. Demands include an official statement of apology from Tokyo, the release of a list of war victims and the excavation and return of their remains. The group said it would pursue its suit against Japan as a "war crime" under international law.

Protestors jostled with riot police when they tried to march to the Japanese Embassy shortly after the meeting but no injuries were reported.

Japan drafted Koreans from the then-colonized peninsula during the war to fight for the imperial forces and perform hard labor.

Monday's gathering follows a demonstration on city streets by some 300 South Korean victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings who demanded reparations for their suffering. Some 70,000 Koreans

brought to Japan as forced laborers were in the two cities when the bombings occurred. Compensation for the atomic-bombing victims is one of several items in current negotiations between Seoul and Tokyo to pave the way for the much-delayed visit of South Korean President No Tae-u in late May.

Viewpoints on Naval Participation in 'Rimpacex'

SK2603132690 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
25 Mar 90 p 3

[Editorial: "Opinions on Participation in 'Rimpacex'"]

[Text] Two ships of the Republic of Korea [ROK] Navy left their home port of Chinhae on 24 March to join the Rimpacex [Rim of the Pacific Exercise] multinational naval training exercise, for the first time in history. The exercise is held outside of our territorial waters.

Upon hearing this report, many Koreans were of two opinions regarding this unprecedented event, whether they should welcome it as an inspiring deed, or reprove it as an erroneous beginning. Incidentally, on the same day foreign news sources from Tokyo reported that a patrol boat of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces had detained a South Korean fishing boat with 15 crewmembers, and that an ROK Navy vessel had rescued a South Korean crewmember who had jumped into the sea.

This minor incident, and the report on the maiden participation of the two ships of the ROK Navy in Rimpacex, gave the Korean people mixed feelings. Rimpacex, started in early seventies by the United States, Canada and Australia, was a military training exercise conducted among the allied countries in order to make up for the vacuum of power caused by the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam. Since that time, this biannual exercise has been joined by Britain and Japan, and has functioned as a clubby activity aimed at promoting friendship among the advanced Pacific-rim countries and attaining their common objectives, together with 7-country summit talks that began in 1975 in (Lang Biue), France.

Frankly speaking, we were displeased when the ROK, which participated in the U.S.-led Vietnam War along with Australia, was excluded from "Rimpacex membership," because we were under the impression that the ROK Armed Forces were being excluded from the naval club on the grounds that a navy requires highly-sophisticated technology and an accumulation of great wealth—although our ground forces were helpful.

The participation of two domestically-manufactured ROK Navy vessels in the joint exercise, together with five other countries which have traditional, advanced naval forces, is a matter that we should celebrate. The domestically manufactured ships could be said to be the realization of a comprehensive technological and industrial potential—which also includes an aircraft and space industry. The fact that the domestically manufactured ships are joining the exercise with the United States,

Great Britain, Japan, and Australia is itself an event deserving congratulations. It is an inspiring deed to us who still remember the painful history of the Sherman and Unyang vessel incidents.

However, the situation these days has changed much as the ROK has progressed and developed. According to the general view of military experts, a military danger still exists in the western Pacific, in particular in Northeast Asia. However, the thaw coming from the Soviet Union and East Europe—which before had created the main currents of such a danger—has reached a such degree as to overthrow the one-party dictatorship in Mongolia, and to cause even the speculation that the Soviet Union will return the four northern islands to Japan. Some people observe that if China, which has already opened economically, and North Korea, which will be influenced by such openness, pursue total openness, the degree of military danger in Northeast Asia will certainly be reduced.

Thus, our apprehensions that our joining in such a military bloc as Rimpacex may run counter to the trend of the times appears to be quite natural. Besides, the U.S.-Japan security agreement is bilateral on the one hand but has a factor, on the other, that makes joint measures by the three countries of the ROK, the United States and Japan inevitable in an emergency. Accordingly, some people have raised their voices expressing concern that the ROK Navy's participation in Rimpacex may irritate the Soviet Union and North Korea while consolidating ROK-U.S.-Japan relations.

We share the same view with them. However, we consider Rimpacex a good method for managing the vacuum of power that may be left after the withdrawal of U.S. troops—just as in Vietnam—and for maintaining friendly relations with our allies. In the international society, friend-enemy relationships inevitably take place. We should properly manage the relations of our allies while quietly managing our opponents. Therefore, we need not discard our own interests by excessively expanding the political significance of Rimpacex. On the other hand, we would like to emphasize that we should make strenuous efforts so that our naval forces will not be outstripped by the newly-rising navy of Japan, which has the highest-level ability of detecting submarines and missile-escort vessels.

Seoul Seen Riding Momentum of 'Nordpolitik'

SK2803075690 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
28 Mar 90 p 6

[Text] The latest developments in the vigorous drive of the Seoul government for Nordpolitik have been dramatic. The results are notable both in scope and in depth. This, however, should not feed our naive complacency beyond the bounds of due confidence.

Rep. Kim Yong-sam, a co-leader of Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party, and his high-powered delegation wound up their week-long visit to the Soviet union

yesterday. It was Kim's second visit to Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Institute for World Economy and International Relations. This time, his mission was far more important because he went as an official representative of the government party and delivered the goods.

In a joint statement issued by the Korean delegation and the IMEMO [Soviet Institute for World Economy and International Relations], Seoul and Moscow agreed to continue their efforts for advancing the formation of bilateral diplomatic ties. Noting that important preparatory work for normalizing relations between the two countries has been completed, the two sides agreed that a ministerial-level meeting, necessary for the development of closer economic cooperation, should be held in the near future.

The period of Kim's visit to the Soviet Union coincided with a remarkable flowering of Seoul's foreign policy, with the opening of formal ties with East European and other formerly Communist countries one after another. Korea set up ambassadorial relations with Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria last week, followed by similar normalization with Mongolia this week.

The few remaining Communist nations either in Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa or elsewhere which are keeping their distance from Seoul are mostly marking time to establish normal and mutually beneficial links with Korea. Thus, we have come a long way from the days of complete estrangement from the East bloc and its followers to being free, open and equal intercourse with them.

The dynamic search of the Seoul government for fair partnership with all members of the world community without ideological distinctions has now paid off handsomely. This, of course, would not have been possible without the crumbling of the Iron Curtain, the Bamboo Curtain and similar lesser barriers in many parts of the globe as a result of Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika policy and the universal erosion of the Marxist monolith, with the sole exception of North Korea.

We might well ride the momentum of the unfolding Nordpolitik with self-assurance and dynamism tempered with realism and circumspection.

Taegu By-Election 'Melodrama About Power'

SK2503033490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
25 Mar 90 p 2

["News in Review" column by political editor Chong On-pong: "DLP Gets Restless in Taegu By-Election"]

[Text] Now, the nation appears to be getting carried away by the wind of the Soviet Union. The activities of Rep. Kim Yong-sam, a co-leader of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, are given wide press coverage day in and day out. On top of this, an economic delegation from the Soviet Union is now on a visit here to test the waters for bilateral economic cooperation. All looks good,

auguring that something good might come to pass in relations between capitalist South Korea and the once-forbidden country.

Amidst the rapid development between the two countries, the by-election in Taegu is no less appealing to the people throughout the nation. In the by-election, there are all the qualifications needed for a melodrama about power. It is like a tapestry of friendship, betrayal and political infighting.

Adding fuel and interest to the game is the seeming suicide attempt committed by the wife of Chong Ho-yong, who is now struggling against Mun Hui-kap, hand-picked candidate of the ruling camp by President No Tae-u.

The three are graduates from Kyongbuk High School. This fact alone is enough to leave Taegu citizens in the lurch. They cannot readily turn their shoulder to Chong even though President No is backing Mun fully.

Chong, who once served as chief of staff of Army, home minister and defense minister, got elected in the Taegu constituency. But he had to give up the parliamentary seat in December last year under pressure from the opposition camp and later his own party for his role in the armed suppression of the uprising in Kwangju in 1980. At that time, he was the commander of the Special Warfare Command, some regiments of which were sent to Kwangju.

There have been lots of exchanges of opinion between No and Chong regarding Chong's resignation as a lawmaker. Chong gave in at last. To nobody's expectation, three parties got united thereafter to create a new ruling party, the Democratic Liberal Party, leaving Chong alone. He was left at the back, failing to find any institution to look to to wash his hands of what he believes to be an undue stigma.

Chong feels that he was had even by the leadership of his own party. Now, he is out to get rid of the "tarnish" by winning the by-election for himself. And it seems that there is some chance. Determined to dump Chong, the DLP is pulling no punches, sending as many as 40 lawmakers to Taegu. To the surprise of the people, they registered with the election committee as campaigners, something not suited to the status of lawmakers.

The DLP is out with a strong message that the by-election is not simply a by-election. It is concerned with the authority of No as the president. Besides this, it takes the nature of a people's verdict on the desirability of the three-party merger which No personally conducted.

If the ruling DLP attaches that much importance to the by-election, it may well do all it can to help Mun beat Chong whom it regards as a "black sheep." But, here arises a problem of principle. Granting that the DLP is getting restless as its candidate is facing an uphill struggle, it cannot be seen as proper for the party to hire 40 lawmakers as campaigners.

No doubt, the action added fuel to the already heated election fever against its long-held policy of curbing politics as much as possible. The DLP's action is well contrasted with its position to ban political parties from fielding candidates in the local council elections.

Of course, the Taegu election is to elect a lawmaker, not to elect a deputy to the local council. Notwithstanding, it is not plausible in every aspect for the lawmakers to fan out begging votes, which is not what they were elected for. It is only feared they will muddy the election atmosphere with dust they are liable to raise in the course of a heady campaign.

A middle-aged citizen living in Seoul confided that he was dunned by his friend to come down to Taegu to work for a certain candidate. The man, whose hometown is Taegu, said he is in unnecessary agony, torn between Chong and Mun. In person, he said he knows neither of the two. "Frankly speaking," he said, "I want both of them to be elected."

By saying so, he asked how politicians can give agony to the people rather than help them, rubbing where it itches.

Now, a horde of 40 lawmakers are on the run in the city of Taegu. The irony is that not a small number of them vowed to stand by Chong when he was driven to a corner under pressure to give up his parliamentary seat. The drama of the Taegu election is packed with so many elements striking the chord of human relations and political calculation that no one can dare to spring from his seat and leave midway, leaving the protagonists in the balance.

YONHAP Analysis of By-Election Controversy

SK2703121290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0858 GMT
27 Mar 90

[By Hong Sang-pyo]

[Text] Seoul, March 27 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u wielded a double-edged sword when he persuaded an independent candidate to drop out of a hotly contested by-election on Saturday, making the ruling party candidate a virtual shoo-in but dealing his government a serious setback in the political morality stakes.

Chong Ho-yong, not long ago the powerful leader of the largest faction in the ruling party, on Monday renounced his bid for re-election to the National Assembly seat he himself vacated last December as a "political scapegoat" in the tumultuous process of liquidating vestiges of former president Chon Tu-hwan's rule.

Chong told a news conference he had pulled out of the race to prevent a division among his former constituents and to quiet the political controversy triggered by his candidacy. The announcement came two days after No met privately with Chong and persuaded him to abandon the race.

A former defense minister and home minister and army chief of staff, the retired general said he regretted that his candidacy had stirred controversy among the people of Taegu and caused the president anxiety but he denied he was forcefully pressed by the ruling circle or the president to surrender the election. It is common knowledge, however, that the withdrawal resulted from all-out pressure from No, his government and party, which saw the re-election bid as a direct challenge to the president, Chong's lifelong friend and classmate in the prestigious Kyongbuk high school and at the Korea Military Academy.

Chong was contesting the April 3 by-election in District West A in Taegu, also No's hometown, in disregard of strong objections by No and his Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], which was created last month by merging the ruling party with two opposition parties. Firmly determined to frustrate Chong's bid for election, which the unseated lawmaker described as an appeal to the electorate to restore his honor and proclaim his "innocence" in connection with the military suppression of the 1980 Kwangju civil uprising, the DLP fielded an influential candidate with strong links to No, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs Mun Hui-kap, and has openly said it was regarding the election as a virtual referendum on the three-party merger.

In addition, members of the ruling camp continued to press Chong to voluntarily step down out of concern that if Mun lost the close-fought election it would deal a serious political blow to No.

The DLP mobilized more than 40 lawmakers to campaign for Mun, an almost unprecedented move in Korea's election history, and some influential national figures close to Chong went to great lengths to persuade him to resign. Every gambit was countered and No had no choice but to involve himself directly in the campaign to derail Chong's bid for re-election.

The race itself became so frenzied because of the ruling party moves and Chong's strong resistance that critics began to worry there would be no real winner after the dust settled. In what appeared to be a bid to lodge a strong protest against the ruling party pressure, Chong's wife made an attempt at suicide, sending shock waves reverberating throughout the nation and fueling the fears that the election was getting out of hand.

The desperate efforts of the ruling camp were successful as Chong finally resigned, but it has backfired on No, who is now under growing criticism for putting indiscriminate political pressure on Chong.

Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] has declared the upcoming election null and void and called No's intervention an "act breaking constitutional order" and wasted no time in making political attacks on the No Government. The PPD contended that Chong's resignation was not an issue solely related to the Taegu by-election but was part of a grave problem that made all

elections meaningless, and called for immediate convocation of the National Assembly to review the matter.

A group of unallied lawmakers, tentatively named the Democratic Party, said it will file a lawsuit against the president, charging No with violating election laws and the criminal code.

The moves have already fueled bitter controversy among Korea's political parties and raised doubts about the morality and legitimacy of the president's actions, observers say. They say Chong is also responsible so far as morality is concerned and criticize him as being double-faced, arguing that he should not have stood in the by-election as he had resigned the constituency to take responsibility for the Kwangju uprising even if he had not intended to.

But Chong's followers assert that the voters in Taegu must be the ones to judge at the polls whether he is responsible for the Kwangju incident. They say Chong should not be made a political scapegoat for the sake of the ruling party again and strongly pressed him not to surrender his election bid.

Chong was commander of the special warfare force when it was deployed into Kwangju to break up the pro-democracy protests that left nearly 200 people dead by official counts. The opposition claimed Chong was responsible for the suppression, but Chong denies the charges. His resignation from the National Assembly last year was one of two conditions set by the opposition to complete liquidation of Chong's negative legacies.

It was not known whether there was a political deal between No and Chong in connection with the withdrawal. At any rate, Chong's candidacy and extraordinary surrender will have a lasting impact on politics, observers say.

Complaint Against No in By-Election Controversy

*SK2803101290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0940 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Taegu, South Korea, March 28 (YONHAP)—A formal complaint filed with the South Korean prosecution Wednesday charges President No Tae-u and nine other big names with violating parliamentary election laws.

Three members of a minority opposition group, tentatively named the Democratic Party, submitted a complaint to the district prosecutor's office in this city naming 10 people on charges of using coercive means to force an independent candidate to drop out of a by-election here.

"Those who are complained of violated parliamentary election laws by influencing Chong Ho-yong to resign as a candidate in the April 3 by-election," the document said.

The splinter party, which is as yet an informal group, comprises independent lawmakers and opposition politicians who opposed the merger of the ruling and two centrist opposition parties earlier in the year.

Chong vacated the parliamentary seat late last year under pressure from the opposition for his alleged role in the brutal suppression of the 1980 Kwangju civil uprising. No also advised him to relinquish his parliamentary seat to wrap up the issue of "the past wrongdoings of the Chon Tu-hwan government" in a political compromise with the opposition.

Chong was seeking re-election to regain his "honor" but No, a close friend, reportedly met him twice to dissuade him from running. Chong officially resigned as a candidate on Monday.

Other influential figures close to Chong tried to keep the retired Army general out of the race. Those listed in the complaint include Kim Yong-sam, co-leader of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, former Prime Minister Shin Hyon-hwak, former Deputy Prime Minister Kim Chun-song and former Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Chong Su-chang.

The opposition party led by Kim Tae-chung declared the April 3 by-election null and void on Tuesday and called for convocation of the National Assembly to deal with the "illegal" presidential intervention. Kim's party has decided to send an open questionnaire to Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun about No's persuasion and its legality. No, in talks with senior government party officials, admitted meeting Chong on March 15 and advising him to withdraw from the by-election.

With Chong gone, No's handpicked government party candidate Mun Hi-kap is a favorite while paek seung-hong, the candidate of group that filed the complaint, and a relatively unknown independent are chasing Mun hard. Opinion polls showed Chong ahead of Mun at the time of his withdrawal. Chong said the growing enmity and division among people in the city and his close friends had forced him to quit the race.

Students Sentenced for Breaking Into Residence

*SK2803051390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0504 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Seoul, March 28 (YONHAP)—Three radical South Korean students were sentenced to two years in prison by the Seoul Criminal District Court Wednesday for their part in an attack on the U.S. ambassador's residence in downtown Seoul last October. Three others involved in the attack received 18-month sentences suspended for three years.

Ambassador Donald Gregg and his wife were in the house at the time of the raid, but escaped unharmed.

Kang Son-hong, 23, a student of Hanyang University in eastern Seoul, who drew two years of imprisonment, organized the 50-minute anti-American protest by the

six students, who were armed with home-made bombs, early on the morning of Oct. 13.

Moves for New Political Party Analyzed

SK2203033790 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
20 Mar 90 p 3

[Article by reporter Kim Hyon-il: "An Off-Stage Progressive Party Is Now Set in Motion"]

[Text] With one dissident force seeking to create a progressive political party and others renewing their resolve to found a political party, a meeting was held on 20 March to inaugurate the "Committee for the Promotion of a Democratic Alliance to Found a Political Party of the Masses" [Minnyonchu]. The meeting showed that the dissident forces' movement toward transforming into a political force has begun in earnest.

The Minnyonchu, which seeks to found a political party within six months and take part in the 14th parliamentary elections, held a meeting on 19 March with National Democratic Alliance of Korea [Chonminnyon] leaders, who have opposed turning the dissident groups into a political force. In the meeting, the Minnyonchu stressed that the Chonminnyon and Minnyonchu are not on confrontational ground but, rather, complement each other. The Minnyonchu proposed to the Chonminnyon to split roles between them—that the Chonminnyon continues its social movement and that the Minnyonchu embodies in practical politics what the Chonminnyon has sought to achieve in its social movement. There was, however, no sign that the two sides can easily iron out their differences in opinion.

Besides, the Minnyonchu made it clear that it does not trust the established politicians by pointing out the division among the opposition parties in 1987 that cost the opposition the presidential election. The Minnyonchu also made it clear that it has no intention to integrate with the opposition parties that have already been participating in politics and the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] in particular. So, it seems inevitable that the Minnyonchu will be embroiled in feuds with the opposition parties such as the PPD that are operating within the framework of the current political system.

Even though it is willing to unite with democratic forces of all shades under the pretext of joint struggle, the Minnyonchu has made it clear that it has not only drawn a clear line with the PPD, but it also will create a new political party representing mainly the masses. It is expected, therefore, to prove itself to be a new ideological party.

It was not just yesterday that this dissident group began moving toward turning itself into a political force, whose declaration of its intent has caught all the other dissident groups and political parties off guard. In September last year, Chang Ki-pyo, the then chairman of Chonminnyon, and Pak Kye-tong, its spokesman, and a few other

like-minded people gave birth to a preparatory committee for the creation of a new progressive political party based on their analysis that conservatism and progressivism will form the structure of future politics.

At that time, those who were committed to forming a progressive political party concluded that the PPD and other opposition parties would not represent the progressive demands of the masses in that the former were basically conservative and, therefore, they have to found a political organization to reflect the political demands of the masses. Nevertheless, Kim Kun-tae, director of the Chonminnyon Policy Planning Department, argued against it on the ground that it was too early to form a political party. He and others said that reinvigorating the dissident organization and strengthening its organization should take precedence over everything. This led those bent on founding a political party to break away from Chonminnyon and form a preparatory committee for founding a new political party.

The members of this splintered group had remained inactive until the merger of the three parties. The inauguration of the Democratic Liberal Party galvanized and encouraged it to call for a political party made up of all dissident groups.

In particular, the merger of Kim Yong-sam's Reunification Democracy Party with the ruling party came as a great shock to this splintered group and it served to give rise to a strong pessimism that "the established parties cannot but be conservative." This perception has won widespread support.

Such a turn of events, coupled with the release of Yi Pu-yong, the permanent chairman of Chonminnyon who is bent on forming a new political party, and Yi Chae-o, chairman of the Seoul District Branch of Chonminnyon, has opened an earnest debate on the issue of forming a new political party.

However, the position of each faction within Chonminnyon is different from one another. Thus, their views were divided into a plan to form a single party composed of all opposition parties including the PPD and another plan to form a separate progressive political party. The Minnyonchu's position favors the latter.

Prompted by the merger of the three conservative parties the plan to form a political party was put forward. However, the plenary meeting of Chonminnyon's second-term deputies held on 3 March vetoed this plan.

Amid the opposition of five organizations including the National Alliance of Farmers' Movement, Association of Buddhists for Reunification, National Council of Youth, Christians' Federation for Social Movement, and Joint Council for Democracy and Independence, the faction favoring the formation of a political party passed a bill resolving the formation of a political party in an executive committee meeting. However, with the systematic opposition struggle by the opposing factions, the resolution was blocked at the deputies congress. The opposing

factions were largely composed of those who called for a coalition with the PPD. Accordingly, there was a speculation that their blockade was manipulated behind the scenes by the PPD members who were concerned with the possibility of a blow to the PPD with the formation of a political party by the dissidents.

As a result, those who favored the formation of a political party including Chairman Yi Pu-yong resigned from their posts, declaring that they will carry on independently, and organized a "committee for founding a political party to make nationalist and democratic circles a political force."

The faction favoring a political party decided to "transfer" the forces of dissident movement sphere, which have been led by Chonminnyon, to the National Coalition of the People [NCP] [Kukmin Yonhap] to be formed in April. It was learned that the NCP will be formed as an opposition organization embracing not only Chonminnyon but also the National Federation of Workers, National Federation of Teachers Trade Unions, and National Council of University Student Representatives. The factions pushing ahead with the formation of the NCP defined the NCP as a joint struggle body of all democratic forces including the PPD and Democratic Party, and declared that they will also join this organization as members.

The Minnyonchu, which declared its founding on 20 March, will hold a first meeting of the preparatory committee on 26 March, calling together all dissident organizations. Stressing that "making dissident organizations a political force is inevitable," the persons concerned confidently said that although there will be some difficulties, this work will be realized without serious problems.

It was learned that they are also planning to attain case-by-case coalition or alliance with dissident organizations after fostering their own force. However, the opposition forces within the movement sphere are still strong and the PPD's checking is anticipated. Thus, it appears that their work is cut out for them.

Clearly defining the present time as the "era of confrontation between democratic and nondemocratic forces,"

the PPD explicitly expressed its position opposing the formation of a mass political party, noting that the founding of such party at a time when all democratic forces should be united may fall into a pitfall of so-called artificial conservatist-revolutionary structure which the ruling camp aims.

The PPD considers that if the dissident organization Minnyonchu emerges as a certain political force, the position of the PPD and party president Kim Tae-chung will be jeopardized.

Thus, whether or not the Minnyonchu will be able to expand its forces as a progressive political party, which can replace the PPD, attracts the people's attention.

National Police To Upgrade Aviation Security

SK2703124390 Seoul YONHAP in English 1231 GMT
27 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 27 (YONHAP)—As South Korea briskly expands its civil aviation links with the communist countries on the strength of improved official relations, the National Police here have decided to step up their readiness to protect civilian aircraft flying over communist regions from the potential danger of terrorist attacks.

The National Police Headquarters has decided to strengthen its works of collecting information on international terrorists and their activities with a view to preventing South Korean planes flying over communist territories from being the target of terrorist attacks. Police will intensify passenger and baggage checks in international airports across the country and conduct special anti-terrorist training for the aircraft crew to step up security posture inside the cabins, officials of the headquarters said.

A Korean Air (KAL) Boeing 747 regular flight is to make a technical landing at Moscow's airport for the first time in South Korea's civil aviation history Wednesday morning. KAL's regular flights bound for some West European destinations started to use the Soviet air space from March 25 under an aviation accord reached between the two countries.

A regular passenger service will also be opened between Seoul and Ulaanbaatar of Mongolia soon.

Burma**Saw Maung Delivers Speech on Armed Forces Day**

*BK2703075590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
0102 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[Speech by Senior General Saw Maung, commander in chief of the Defense Services, delivered at the 45th Armed Forces Day military parade at Rangoon's Resistance Park—live]

[Excerpts] Comrades: Today we observe the 45th Defense Services Day or Resistance Day, which is a day of historic significance to the country and to the Defense Services because it commemorates the date 27 March 1945 when our Defense Services together with the indigenous people repulsed the fascists who suppressed and terrorized our country and people for three years. On this significant day, I would like to truthfully explain to you, comrades, the political, economic, and social changes that have taken place in the country, as well as the military situation. I would also like to talk about our current and long-term responsibilities.

Comrades, the situation in our country has deteriorated steadily since March 1988. It is known to all how the responsible authorities attempted to change gradually from one system to another. As the commander in chief responsible for the country's defense, I issued an appeal on 12 September 1988 to all indigenous people, monks, and members of the Defense Services. However, the situation was out of control and deteriorated further during September 1988. The government's administrative machinery was at a standstill and law and order ceased to prevail in major towns. Taking advantage of the cause for democracy, various unscrupulous destructive elements created unrest and insulted our Defense Services by trying to cause its disintegration. Had the Defense Services disintegrated, we would have faced a disastrous situation. However, all members of our Defense Services obeyed their orders from above by holding their ground and remaining loyal, farsighted, and reasonable. [passage omitted]

During the events of 1988, some personages became void of reasoning and became solely and madly concerned with the objective of obtaining power. They received encouragement and support from the imperialists and recruited many youths who were not yet mature and experienced. However, they had to defer to those who wanted the disturbances, as well as to UG [underground] agents of the BCP [Burma Communist Party]. Extreme acts of anarchy were committed and the situation deteriorated to the extent that innocent people were brutally killed in public places. [passage omitted] There were also some who only wanted power, without thinking about what would happen to the country. They now claim that U Nu's parallel government exists only on paper. Despite attempts to stop them, they distributed their statements to foreign embassies. During that time, innocent people lived in fear of being executed. On 18 September 1988, our Defense Services, which had

always defended the lives, homes, and property of the people, had no choice but to take over state power. Because we were able to control the situation, people were once again safe and secure in Yangon [Rangoon] and in other towns and villages.

Hence our Defense Services were able to save the country from disintegration. On the day we took over power, we announced our four tasks—to restore law and order; to facilitate transportation and communication; to alleviate the people's needs for food, clothing, and shelter; and to hold free and fair elections—to the world. On 23 September 1988 we again made an appeal. It has been one year, six months, and nine days since we made that announcement. We have repeatedly said that we did not seize power because we covet power. The people should think about the disastrous situation we would face today if we had not seized power.

I shall tell you of one incident which occurred during that time. Who knows about an instruction from the Office of the Director General of Police ordering police commanders in states and divisions to support democracy and to hold demonstrations? When the then minister of home and religious affairs was questioned, he said he had not been informed. When the deputy director of police was questioned, he said they were doing it for the cause of democracy. He is currently taking refuge in the shadow of a political party. This matter has to be settled by history. The commander of the Yangon Township Police Station issued weapons to the demonstrators, claiming the station had been raided and the weapons stolen. The Defense Services were guarded in its actions to prevent a crisis and untoward incidents. If these law and order personnel were behaving in such a manner, who would control the country if not the Defense Services? This matter does not concern the People's Police Force. The deeds of some in the People's Police Force may not be known to everyone in the police force.

Comrades, in carrying out our task to establish law and order and peace and tranquillity after assuming responsibility, we worked according to the prescribed law and took action against those who infringed upon this law. Everyone, including us, must observe the existing laws. There is no precedent in the world allowing someone to violate the law because of who that person is or what that person does. [passage omitted] Organizations and people who intend to lead the country should strive to be exemplary in their observance of the law. However, some people—who claim they will be leading the country soon—have been somewhat weak in observing the law. Instead of ensuring their party members and youth party members work within the law, they have been so senseless as to issue calls for defiance of the law. This has been to ensure the survival of their organization. On the other hand, we can see that there are others who have observed the law with integrity and ensured their members observe and respect the law and regulations.

The work to be accomplished today is to strive for the success of the elections in accordance with laws, regulations, and decrees. As you comrades may have already heard, some organizations from abroad—who are even more zealous than the people concerned—are boisterously interfering in our internal affairs and are trying to dictate how the elections should be conducted, who should be included in them, and who should supervise them.

Let me say a few things at this juncture. Looking at the world today, we see changes in many countries, including Eastern Europe. There are many cases of subtle changes taking place. This was not so in Romania, where the change was turbulent, but that was because of conditions in that country. It is their own affair. Why should it concern us? We know there are some people who want such things to happen here. Who are these people and organizations? We have already told the people about them in news articles, and we have given explanations at news conferences. These are not propaganda; they are the truth. What we have written is supported by evidence. So, refute it, if they can. We are also producing books and documents. These should be studied.

We have seen many parties talking and writing about a certain topic—the one-party dictatorship. Search out and read about that topic. We had what is called an adipati ashin mingyi [supreme ruler] only in the fascist era when a foreign nation gave our country independence in August 1941. A reference was made to the adipati being the ruler of the country. Was the independence then genuine or sham? That is the work of the History Commission. I cannot find the term one-party dictatorship in either the 1947 State Constitution or the 1974 State Constitution.

In promulgating the People's Assembly Elections Law, which was drawn up with detailed stipulations to ensure fairness after presenting it to the parties and people, we did so with genuine goodwill to bring about democracy for the country's future. However, biased persons both inside and outside the country are interfering by quoting so-called diplomatic sources saying that the elections will not be fair. Out of over 2,300 candidates who applied to run in the general elections, some people who violated Article 10 of the Elections Law were disqualified. Article 10 was actually drafted by General Aung San himself in 1947. [passage omitted]

Demands that a certain person be included amount to disrespect for the law and are acts that do not befit a citizen of a major country. Such actions are unreasonable, uncivilized, and lack integrity. They speak of democracy, but in deed, they are promoting a personality cult [preceding two words in English] and pushing a person on the path to becoming a dictator [preceding word in English]. Such acts are aimed at pushing us into a political corner. Veteran politicians, who had been players in different eras, are aware of this fact. Why then are they keeping silent and why are some of them even lending their support? If they do not give the answers, I will.

Putting two and two together—that these veterans are making a lot of noise without any regard for their own integrity, while other people falsely accuse and fabricate charges against the Defense Services—the answer becomes clear. The old and new puppets are performing together. Since there is already a willing puppet, the puppeteer is ready to pull the strings. If one is sincere about the development of democracy, the rule of law and order should be happily welcomed. There can be no democracy without law and order. If law and order are respected, and peace and tranquillity and public ethics are not violated, all citizens have the right to freely express their beliefs and opinions, assemble peacefully without bearing arms, and form organizations. However, it is tantamount to distorting democracy if the objectives of the law are undermined while these rights are being exercised. Let me say categorically that those who cherish democracy will not be tolerant or grant forgiveness if democracy is abused by wily, smooth operators and those wanting power via the short way, who just utter sweet words for others to hear.

Today, organizations and individuals abroad say they want a change in the political and economic policy in Myanmar [Burma]. However, we see they are trying to change the policymakers and not the policy. What they really want is to make leaders out of the people they prefer or the people they can influence. All those who cherish independence should be alert to attempts to bring about such a situation. What those people forgot to take into account is that we, the Myanmar people, will never make them our masters. This is because we know, very thoroughly, what is going on in their minds.

Let me explain the false charges they are making against us today. I have been reading and studying them because I am in a responsible role. Since you comrades are busy with your duties at the front line and with construction tasks, you do not have the opportunity to read or study. It is, therefore, my duty to tell you what I know. The first point deals with others' calling us fascists. There is no fascism in the world today. [passage omitted] The second point deals with the accusation that we mercilessly suppressed the people demanding democracy during the 1988 incident. If that is the case, what about the people killed in our country by the so-called allied forces and the fascist Japanese during World War II, and the innocent Myanmar people killed when their planes bombed and strafed residential areas? What answer will they give us then? [passage omitted]

The third point deals with human rights. Whose rights are they talking about? They accuse us of launching fierce offensives against the KNU [Karen National Union] and the KIA [Kachin Independence Army], which are demanding self-rule. Do they mean human rights for the KNU, the KIA, and a certain group of people who oppose the law and are rebelling? Are they for the opium traffickers and blackmarketeers? Or are they for the millions of people who work and live

peacefully within the law? Why then was Mandela locked up for 27 years for opposing apartheid and only recently released?

They accuse us of being fascists, that we mercilessly suppressed the people asking for democracy, that we violate human rights, that we will not hold the elections or that the elections will not be free and fair, that we use force to crush the ethnic insurgents who ask for the right to self-rule, and that we have arrested 6,000 pro-democracy political prisoners. The latest accusation, aired by Voice of America on 10 March 1990, is that since there has never been any effective suppression of poppy production in Myanmar, the opium yield this year will be 2,000 tons, and that because of corrupt Myanmar, Thai, and Lao officials, there has been an increase in drug trafficking. The accusation has also been made that we are causing trouble for youths and students at the border and that we are arresting and killing some of the returning students.

They are using the mass media—the so-called independent broadcasting stations and foreign newspapers and magazines—to make false charges so the people will have little trust in us as well as to cause suspicion. I categorically state here that these baseless accusations are entirely false. If we remain silent because we do not want things to get out of hand, others might say the charges are true. That is why we are refuting these charges. There is also the so-called news from the diplomatic circles. Why do they not tell us which diplomats they are referring to? To those who make indiscriminate charges in their writings, we say that we are merely exercising our right to defend ourselves and refute the charges, and I will say here that if it is necessary, we can sue them. [passage omitted] I wish to tell the parents at this point that when their children return home [from the border], there have been cases of their being interrogated or penalized. If their children are tortured and killed, please report it. We will take action. [passage omitted]

I wish to clarify our stance here. We will not give in to any demand to develop democracy if it is not through the process of elections. What we particularly want to tell the political parties is that once you have won the elections and a government has been formed, do whatever you want. The demands that are being made today can also be met if you wish.

I also wish to tell the VOA, the BBC, and All India Radio: You do not have the right to interfere in our internal affairs. The method that was used in 1988 is already outdated in 1990. You may be able to do it once, but never again. If you do not want to help in the elections and in construction tasks, we do not mind, but please do not hamper the processes. Please do not try to divide the people from the Defense Forces either, and do not try to divide the Defense Forces. You are merely wasting time and effort. Our people are not barbarians; they do not lack reasoning power nor do they stand for injustice. They are a dynamic, patriotic people who do not accept the strong bullying the weak. They are a

people equipped with courage and physical and mental powers. Lastly, they are a people who are willing to lay down their lives to safeguard their independence. [passage omitted]

The VOA, the BBC, and All India Radio have frequently broadcast in Myanmar [Burmese] the questions of U Tin U, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and U Nu. At the same time, the world media, such as ASIaweek, the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, the BANGKOK POST, THE NATION [of Bangkok], the CRDB's [Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Burma] UPDATE, the BURMA BULLETIN, the BURMA REVIEW, the DAWN bulletin, and ABSDF [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] magazines, as well as newspapers in Britain and the United States, have been calling for the release of these people and saying the elections will not be free if they are not released. Why do they say the elections will not be free without these three people? I have this comment.

U Tin U was a leading official of the Defense Services—chief of the General Staff. Hence, he understands the Defense Services Act very well. Desertion carries a very heavy penalty, and there is no statute of limitations regarding this crime. For instance, if a soldier deserts at age 20, he will still be guilty of the crime and will be tried even if he is apprehended at age 60. Since the crime is so serious, should everything be forgotten just because the excuse is that the money given to the people who had committed that crime was on humanitarian grounds? [U Tin U was reported to have assisted the striking Air Force men in 1988]. What will happen if the Defense Services disintegrate? Just think about it.

Regarding Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the action was taken in accordance with the Elections Law. The law, as I have said earlier, was drafted by General Aung San himself. If you read it carefully, you will see that the question of whether or not one is enjoying benefits as a citizen of another country does not really matter. What really counts is whether that person has the right to enjoy those benefits and whether they can be made available if that person wishes to enjoy them. This is the essence of the law, and anyone who knows the law can understand this. The Elections Commission decides whether one has the right to stand in the elections.

Regarding U Nu, until now he has not abolished his post as a parallel prime minister. He said he was not running in the elections. How can we allow a parallel prime minister to be let free without any action? I said on 5 July 1989 that I could deal with the question of the parallel government at home. U Nu formed the parallel government and tried to hold a public rally to secure support. He said if his government was recognized he would hold elections in January 1989, but no organization registered with the parallel government. He said those registering with the Elections Commission would be regarded as traitors. When the League for Democracy and Peace registered, his name was not included, for he claimed he was the prime minister. However, he went out to deliver

speeches. When asked what position he held, he said a patron. In the supplementary list released by the commission he was registered as a patron. He still has not resigned from the parallel government. What will the future government do if he says the elections held by the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] is illegal and that the government formed according to law after the 27 May elections is not recognized. This matter should be considered. [passage omitted]

On the matter of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, according to interrogations after we assumed responsibility, she and some persons from a Western Embassy held person-to-person talks in closed door sessions. It was learned that the NLD CEC [National League for Democracy Central Executive Committee] had given her the right to hold such talks. It was also learned that no other persons were allowed in during the talks. What did they discuss? What kind of advice was given? Only the persons responsible would know. [passage omitted] She then advocated defiance against unjust decrees and said the Defense Services are not for a group of people, but for the people and that the Defense Services have become a fascist army. Reports and records of these can be issued. With whose advice were these accusations made? [passage omitted] These actions amount to creating confrontation between the Defense Services and the people. So I would like to say: Would it not be good to issue a press release on what was discussed during the talks with the embassy representatives to clear the people's view on whether or not there was any interference in the internal affairs?

Why are foreign journals and some persons dissatisfied with the relocation in new satellite towns for squatters from Yangon to keep the Yangon city according to attributes of a city, and with the resettlement of those sheltering in government buildings and homeless and landless staying on religious land, and even cemeteries and garbage dumps? Are our people to remain homeless? What do they have to do with it? Everyone knows that assistance is being given as much as possible to prevent inconvenience in relocation. [passage omitted] Who is Bertil Lintner who is sending reports on these? He claims to be an expert on Myanmar, but what he is doing is to keep in contact with the KIA narcotic smugglers and to write propaganda articles and broadcast them from foreign radio stations. The news conference of 16 March 1990 has already provided evidence on Bertil Lintner.

Comrades and people, I would like to say a few things to persons, organizations, and journals abroad. Why do they want to interfere in the internal affairs of Myanmar? Their actions will make no differences. I would like to tell them to first study the nationalistic spirit of the Myanmar people, their fierce patriotism, social sciences, psychology, religious belief, culture, tradition, and historical developments of Myanmar. They may surpass us in natural sciences, but they should understand we are not inferior to them intellectually and in the social sciences field.

What is most important is for the entire people to freely elect in the forthcoming People's Assembly elections the persons who are genuinely loyal to the motherland and people and are farsighted and capable of leading. Only then will a stable and strong government emerge. A government will be stable only when there is political stability. In exercising their right to vote, the people should seriously consider the effects of a weak government and political instability on their lives. It is necessary that they vote freely and wisely. If they make a mistake once in voting, it will affect their whole life. This is the matter to be decided by the people.

While a lot of noise is being made abroad, some organizations inside the country are presenting their policies and platforms in their publications. It will now be necessary to read, think, and comment on these. [passage omitted] We hear some are saying the Elections Law is not crucial and that what is crucial is the Constitution. Some are saying an interim government will be first formed and power transferred under an interim constitution and then they will take time in drafting a constitution. They can do what they want. As for the Defense Services, we have made a pledge on elections. And the Defense Services have to hold the elections first and foremost according to its pledge. [passage omitted]

During the election campaign period, all kinds of speeches are being made, and noises are being made abroad. Listen to these two sources and think. Will you allow loss of independence or say this or that happened during the 26 years [of the Burma Socialist Program Party era]? Or will you turn the clock backward to 1962 [year of the military coup by Gen Ne Win] situation? Should all the factories, mills, dams and irrigation projects, colleges, schools, hospitals, and clinics built during the 26 years be brought back to 1962 condition? Will you reduce the population back to 23 million [number of population in 1962]? Will you dismantle what has been constructed after 1962? [passage omitted]

They are saying the country today becomes a least developed country [LDC] because of the mistakes committed during the 26 years. Are we really poor because we have become an LDC? Do they know the benefits the country enjoys as an LDC? It is easy to leave the status of LDC. Can whatever government that comes to power apply to leave the LDC status? [passage omitted] I am saying this not because I am pining for the old system. I am saying this because they kept referring to 1962. So what happened in 1962? It was the time of the Revolutionary Council, which was based on the Defense Services. This concerns history and shall be settled by history. Who agreed to that system [Burma Socialist Program Party]? What are these people who once took responsibility in implementing the system doing now? Today they are saying the system was wrong. Why then did they sign to go toward that path and system when they did not believe in it originally? Should they not have resigned when they no longer believed in it?

So, what are the Defense Services doing today? Is it not establishing a new system because the people said they did not like it? Is it not paving the way? I have this to say to youths and students. You are doing what you are doing because you want to change from one system to another. What are the Defense Services doing? Which should you give priority to—interests of the country, a party, or some persons? Just think. Can progress and prosperity of the country be carried out by one person alone? Or do you believe we can have prosperity only when another country comes to do it? Will it be enough to just hold commemorative days in memory of your friends who had fallen for various reasons? Will you not observe commemorative days in memory of your own blood relations—members of the Defense Services—who died daily while fighting at the frontlines so you can pursue your education in peace and the entire people, including your parents, pursue their livelihood in peace? [passage omitted]

Comrades, as you know, members of our Defense Services together with the local people are striving to establish peace and tranquillity in towns and villages as well as in remote border areas. Outstanding success has been achieved in annihilating insurgents who came into existence since independence. The camps of the KNU insurgents who had engaged in all kinds of vices in their border enclaves and the NMSP [New Mon State Party] insurgents have disintegrated under the onslaught of our Defense Services. Similarly, the Burma Communist Party insurgents who were defeated at the 1988 Mong Yang battle had been on the run, and they have been driven out by national people at border regions, including Wa and Kokang people.

In the far north, our Defense Services, together with the local people, are still in the process of crushing KIA insurgents who are engaged in opium and jade smuggling. Our Defense Services, together with the local people, are not crushing these insurgents out of racial hatred. We always respect and love our national brothers who share the same land and water. Our Defense Services, with genuine goodwill, are sacrificing lives, blood, and sweat in fighting the insurgents, who are seeking self-interest under the pretext of the racial issue, to ensure security of life, home, and property of the local people and to promote regional development. [passage omitted] If these insurgents want to immediately give up the path of armed insurgency and return to the legal fold, we will have to welcome them. However, if they give up the path of armed struggle to obtain political relief and make political demands, it is not acceptable to us; we have been exploited many times before.

Comrades, our efforts to ensure smooth and safe transport and communications can be seen by all. In particular, we have built roads and bridges in border areas where the pace of development is slow. [passage omitted] Only when the flow of commodities is smooth can the people's needs for food, clothes, and shelter be alleviated and accordingly, we (?have been assisting) the private and cooperative sectors as we have pledged. We have

paved the way to create favorable conditions for future development of the country and long-term benefits by establishing joint ventures with foreign concerns and oil and gas explorations, forestry, and deep-sea fishing enterprises. [passage omitted]

Comrades, the Elections Commission is carrying out its work according to the Elections Law for holding the multiparty democratic general elections, which constitutes the fourth task out of the four tasks we had declared. On 27 May, elections will be held in all townships, with the exceptions of six townships where transportation and communications are difficult; over 2,300 candidates from 93 political parties and independent candidates will be running in 486 constituencies. When the elections are held, all those eligible to vote from the families of the Defense Services like you and me can freely vote for the candidate of their choice in their respective constituency. As is the practice in multiparty elections, various parties will campaign before the elections. Political parties campaigning for their parties and candidates should speak and act truthfully and with integrity which befits citizens of a major country. However it will be necessary for them to absolutely abstain from instigations aimed at defying laws, rules, and decrees so they do not complicate and destabilize the situation, create antagonism between races and religions, cause disintegration of the Defense Services, or discredit the prestige of the Defense Services.

One party said the election is a common event while the Constitution is a national (?concern). As for the Defense Services, the election is crucial because, as pledged, we have to ensure the successful holding of the elections. After the elections the parties can do what they want. I would like to say that they should not try to denigrate our pledge. Democracy should be within the framework of rules and regulations. They should be aware that if they act without regard for rules and regulations, there will be anarchy. We have to be cautious of and remove any organizational work and infiltration of party politics, which have different objectives and concepts, within our Defense Services. Similarly, it will be necessary to prevent organizational work and infiltration of party politics which could undermine unity among public servants in offices, factories, and mills. [passage omitted]

Comrades, we must be cautious of foreign neocolonialist-imperialists abroad and their minions inside the country who are trying to divide our Defense Services, which have always remained united. They are using extremely sly and wicked terms in fabricating unfounded reports, rumors, accusations, and slanders to undermine unity within our Defense Services and between our Defense Services and indigenous people. We shall not take the unjust accusations with our heads down. We have the right to defend ourselves. [passage omitted]

We speak and act truthfully, and we have rebutted the unjust accusations hurled at us. Some persons and organizations inside the country and abroad are making mileage out of these accusations, which they have been

using as they deem fit by omitting and hiding historical evidence. So we must rebut them by using historical evidence, documents, and records. Those who have been hit hard by our rebuttal are saying they are being denigrated by us. We have to defend the Defense Services from unfounded accusations aimed at creating people's misunderstanding of the Defense Services. [passage omitted] We are not rival candidates in the elections, and we are not power mad. We joined the Defense Services when we came of age with a determination to fight for the country and the people and to prevent the loss of independence. So let us just concentrate on the defense of the country and the citizens. I hereby categorically warn those persons and organizations concerned: Do not drag us into controversy.

Comrades, as you know, preparations are being made on all fronts in order to hold free and fair elections. [passage omitted] The elections will be free and fair if all concerned observe the law. In this connection, I would like to say a few things about law. One party, in connection with the document on exemption for publications, claimed that the law is laid down by a class with advantage over others to defend its privileges and that it has become necessary to scrutinize whether decrees, rules, regulations, and laws issued by the SLORC are fair. They should understand that the law enacted by the SLORC is not for one person or a party organization, but it was enacted to safeguard the interests of the entire country and people. I would like to ask whether that party represents the country or whether it represents a group of persons? I would suggest that it is not a good thing to oppose everything.

The SLORC is a military government. What is the law that supports the Defense Services [referring to martial law]? I have repeatedly said this. A military government does not follow constitutions. The SLORC is a government that will hold the elections. I would like to state that they should be aware that actions that undermine the elections cannot be tolerated. They should consider that the permission to publish is good enough. [passage omitted]

Comrades, there are all kinds of speculations and predictions about the country's situation after the election. Frankly, although we can estimate the country's situation after the election, the final outcome will be decided by the citizens. Therefore, it is the responsibility of all of us to create good conditions. [passage omitted] Comrades, regardless of which government comes to power and which party obtains power in the state, members of our Defense Services will have to carry out our duties responsibly and loyally in the interests of the country. We uphold allegiance to the four oaths we repeat daily in the morning and evening. We do not lie or resort to trickery. We do not deceive the people. [passage omitted] The major responsibilities of our Defense Services are our three main causes we have declared: nondisintegration of the Union; nondisintegration of national unity; and perpetuation of sovereignty. We are to successfully carry out these responsibilities with courage, diligence,

and perseverance regardless of any difficulty and hardship we may face. [passage omitted] Comrades, I urge you to always take pride in the noble life of a soldier and the great responsibility to strive to remain united within the Defense Services, and to keep yourselves well prepared and trained to annihilate any enemy that may emerge. [passage omitted]

Comrades, on this special occasion of the 45th Resistance Day—Armed Forces Day—I would like to solemnly urge you to stay free of party politics in order not to even slightly undermine the unity of the Defense Services. Follow regulations and orders accurately and seriously to ensure the elections are free and fair. Vote individually and freely for the candidates of your choice in the forthcoming People's Assembly elections without favoring any political party. Promote national unity and assist the development of the national people to the best of your ability. Remain alert to plots, works, and attempts of the internal and external subversive elements in order to safeguard sovereignty. Strive to sustain the three abilities and 10 strengths of the Defense Services. Defend and safeguard forever our motherland unitedly in accordance with the motto: Defense Services are our father and mother. Complete the four tasks we have pledged to carry out. I conclude by urging you to bear in your heart our three major causes while working together with the indigenous people. [applause]

Mon Insurgents Raid Village in Thanbyuzayat

*BK2703143290 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[Text] Insurgents have been hampering and disrupting regional peace and tranquillity and attacking public places with small arms to kill and maim innocent people. Accordingly, an insurgent NMSP [New Mon State Party] unit raided (Tin-yu) village in Thanbyuzayat township at 1900 on 25 March and indiscriminately fired small arms at homes in the village. The insurgents fled immediately. The raid killed 18-year-old Ma Than Nyo, daughter of U Ba Nyo. Ko Myo Tin, 42, son of U Win, was wounded in the right thigh; Kyaw Swe, 34, son of U Than Sein, was hit in the left buttock; and Aung Than Tin, 36, son of U Saw Maung, was hit in the left thigh and on the right side of his back. Officials immediately sent the wounded to the Mawlamyine hospital via Thanbyuzayat. Defense Forces columns are pursuing the fleeing insurgents.

Information Committee on Insurgent Attack on Ye

*BK2403094290 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Excerpts] The Information Committee of the State Law and Order Restoration Council held its 83d news conference at 1300 today with local and foreign journalists in the reception hall of the Ministry of Defense. [passage omitted] At the news conference, the Information Committee explained the attack on Ye by insurgents from the NMSP [New Mon State Party]. The committee first said today it had no special matter to explain other than the

details on the insurgent attack on the town of Ye as various matters had been fully given in the previous news conferences. [passage omitted] The Information Committee said the battle report published yesterday was a timely and truthful report as rumors tend to spread in the country every time an extraordinary development took place. [passage omitted]

The Information Committee stated that the Mon insurgents from the NMSP attacked Ye town on the morning of 22 March. As known to the newsmen, the Three Pagodas camp of the NMSP was captured by the Defense Services on 8 February, and government troops have been stationed and deployed in the area around the camp. After they lost their camp, the NMSP insurgents moved further inland with a plan to disrupt communication lines, attack towns and villages, and launch surprise attacks on military and police camps. They attacked Lamaing camp on 7 March and the Marine Biology Station at Kyaikkami-Setse on 10 March and mined a Mawlamyine train between Thanbyuzayat and Karokpi on 11 March, overturning an engine and four passenger coaches and killing three persons. [passage omitted] The committee said that about 300 NMSP insurgents began attacking Ye police station and the 61st Infantry Regiment Headquarters at the Ye River bridge with heavy weapons at 0445 on 22 March. A team composed of 80 men and another team composed of 50 men entered the town from the north and attacked the office of the township Law and Order Restoration Council and government offices and houses in the town. They launched a fierce attack against the camp of the 61st Infantry Regiment.

The 1st Company of the 61st Infantry Regiment and township police force members retaliated the insurgent attack with heavy weapons. At about 0530 a company from the 61st Infantry Regiment clashed with about 50 insurgents at a five-mile junction point south of Ye. At about 0600 the insurgents fled to the west toward Duyar village. Another fierce battle was fought at 0705 at Tinpalingwin junction of the town when a column led by the deputy regimental commander entered the town via the Ye bridge. Another battle occurred between 1000 and 1130 at Wegali compound when the retreating route of the insurgents in the west were blocked by military columns. The insurgents fled toward the train station and attacked the station and engine workshop from their position at Wegali. The security units at the station and police force retaliated the attack. At 1330 the military column in charge of the town security attacked the insurgents at Wegali, and at 1400 the insurgents retreated and fled toward Duyar village. [passage omitted]

During the battles, 20 insurgents were killed at Wegali and 23 more were killed at battles inside the town and other places; 37 assorted weapons were seized. The insurgents fleeing toward Arlein Hills were mopped up with the help of air cover. Assistance was also given by the Navy during the battle at Ye River. The Information

Committee said that the battle report was being given in detail to prevent rumors and unfounded reports.

Next, the information committee answered questions from the journalists. [passage omitted] In response to a question from a Tokyo Broadcasting Service correspondent, the Information Committee said no students were arrested on 16 March [one of the student unrest anniversaries], but one or two were called in for interrogation in some townships by the People's Police Force. Replying to questions from UPI and REUTER correspondents, the Information Committee explained that promotions of senior military officers were prescribed according to the organizational setup of the Defense Services and to conform to the general practice of military formations in other countries. In response to a question whether it was true that once a senior general title is conferred on a military personnel that person has an indefinite tenure, that is he can serve indefinitely, the Information Committee said it is in accordance with rules and traditions pertaining to the terms of service [three preceding words given in English] of the Burma Defense Services and defense services of other countries. The news conference ended at 1350.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Thai Daily Reports Chin Peng's Desire To Return

BK2603033590 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
26 Mar 90 p 48

[By Sorrayut Suthatsanachinda]

[Text] Hat Yai, Songkhla—Chin Peng, the leader of the now-defunct Communist Party of Malaya [CPM], has expressed a wish to return to Malaysia and lead a political party, an informed Thai army source said yesterday.

The source, who asked not to be named, said Chin Peng confided to people close to him that he wanted to return to Malaysia to head the "Labour Socialist Party of Malaysia" which would include other ex-CPM members.

Chin Peng, 67, is now staying at the Rattanakitti I Village, one of the three resettlement communities set up for ex-CPM guerrillas in Yala province. The other resettlement site, the Rattanakitti IV Village, is in Sukhirin district of Narathiwat.

Chin Peng returned from China on Feb 8 to see his former party members destroy arms as part of a peace agreement signed here among Thailand, Malaysia and the communist movement on Dec 2 last year. He took part in the signing of peace agreement before returning to China.

During his previous stay in Thailand, Chin Peng said he had "a plan in mind" for his future after the dissolution of the CPM, but declined to say whether he wanted to

return to Malaysia. "Judging from his conversations with people close to him, I think Chin Peng will seek to return to Malaysia to lead a political party," said the source. He said Chin Peng expressed the wish to return to Malaysia because the "positive attitude" of the Malaysian government.

Under the peace agreement between Kuala Lumpur and the CPM, the Malaysian government will "in due course" allow former CPM members to return to Malaysia and assume political activities "within the framework of the Federal Constitution and the Laws of Malaysia."

The agreement says ex-CPM members must decide within one year whether to stay in Malaysia or Thailand. Those who remain undecided after one year will have to stay in the resettlement camps in Thailand.

But, the deputy home minister, Mr Megat Junid Megat Ayob said recently that CMP members who want to return to Malaysia must show documents to prove they are Malaysian citizens.

The source said about 300 of 1,100 former CPM insurgents who laid down arms after the peace agreement was signed had said that they intended to return to Malaysia. The rest, more than 200 of them Thais, are being resettled in the four Rattanakitti villages.

Kuala Lumpur's reluctance to clearly say whether it wants to accept the former guerrillas back or not is attributed to a considerably high anti-communism sentiment in the country which has bitter memories of the insurgency.

The CPM fled into southern Thai jungles in the 1950s following military operations by the colonial British government ruling what was then Malaya. The peace agreement ended the CPM's 41-year armed struggle against Kuala Lumpur and a costly cat-and-mouse game with the Thai military.

UK Government Clarifies Prince Charles' Remark

*BK2703134190 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television
Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[Text] The British Government has no connection with Prince Charles' accusation concerning genocidal acts carried out on the Penan tribe. According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's department, Prince Charles made the accusation in his personal capacity without obtaining prior advice from the British Government. Prince Charles does not have a constitutional stand.

The British high commissioner recently made this clarification concerning Prince Charles' accusation to Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed. The prime minister was also told that Prince Charles had directed his personal secretary to clarify to the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] youth delegation that he did not intend to make such an accusation. The prince

also believed that there was no harm done to Malaysia's policy on conservation of forests. He regretted that his statement had angered Malaysia.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir reaffirmed that the Malaysian Government's policy is to bring the Penan tribe alongside the other races to savor the country's current development. Dr. Mahathir expressed the hope that before making any statement concerning a country, prior consideration should be given to the important bilateral relations between the two countries.

Cambodia

SPK Reports on Interview With Hun Sen

*BK2803140990 Phnom Penh SPK in English
1106 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 28—"The allegations made by Prince Sihanouk in Beijing yesterday about the colonization of Cambodia by Vietnam and the presence of the Vietnamese troops and Vietnamese settlers in this country are groundless and aimed at covering up his alliance with the Polpotists in opposing the Cambodian people", said Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister of the State of Cambodia, in an interview with an SPK correspondent Wednesday morning.

Prime Minister Hun Sen further said: "The world public has acknowledged that the pullout of the Vietnamese army volunteers was already completed even without any United Nations supervision. It is also known that Prince Sihanouk together with Son Sann and the Polpotists has seized this opportunity to conduct offensives against the innocent Khmer people along the Cambodian-Thai border as they were unable to do so in the previous years".

He went on: "The world public has expressed much concern over the recurrence of the genocidal Pol Pot clique in Cambodia which has become the subject of universal condemnation. Sihanouk, too, also shares such condemnation for associating himself with the Pol Pot alliance. Thereby, Sihanouk has tried to ward off public censure by using the same disgusting manner he and the Polpotists had used so far that is to sow slanders on the Vietnamization of Cambodia".

"I think", Hun Sen said, "that he has always contradicted himself by saying one thing today and the opposite tomorrow; he can quickly change every decision of himself but there is one thing he cannot change i.e. he cannot repudiate the Polpotists. That is why he has resorted to every way and means to preserve his alliance with the Polpotists. This alliance would enable him to achieve his schemes for regaining power and taking his revenge. Taking revenge has become a habit for this monarch since he was in power. He took revenge of any opposition individual or group. Especially during the

Lon Nol regime he used to revenge himself on those Khmer people who lived in areas controlled by this regime from 1970 to 1975.

Prime Minister Hun Sen said that Prince Sihanouk has been pledged by the Chinese leadership with arms shipment to him and his Polpotist allies. Therefore, Prince Sihanouk has found another chance to realize his attempt of jeopardizing the process of the search for a political solution and broadening the scale of the civil war in Cambodia.

"Prince Sihanouk is becoming another first-hand criminal of the genocidal policy in Cambodia. Therefore, the Cambodian people and the world public must always be on guard against the danger of such policy", Prime Minister Hun Sen said.

Phnom Penh Reports 16-19 Mar Battle Activities

*BK2803043690 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 2300 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[Text] According to a report from the press office of the Defense Ministry, last week our Armed Forces from all units, in particular the heroic units fighting the enemy on the front line in the provinces situated along the Cambodian-Thai border, launched search-and-destroy operations against the three groups of bandits, inflicting continuous, heavy setbacks to their foolish schemes. In fact, our People's Armed Forces in Banteay Meanchey Province on 16 March, having clearly understood the enemies' plan to wreak havoc in areas northwest of Svay Chek and northeast of Treas, fired artillery shells on them, killing 70 and wounding some 100 enemy soldiers, and destroying a DK-75 gun. Meanwhile, our Armed Forces in the 4th Military Region conducted mop-up operations against the enemies, killing 99, wounding 56, and capturing 17 enemy soldiers, as well as receiving 21 others who surrendered. We seized 84 assorted firearms and 21 metric tons of ammunition.

On 19 March, our forces, in a search-and-destroy operation against the enemies in a remote area in Tbeng, uncovered an enemy arms cache with 3,500 rounds for AK rifles, 16,430 rounds for DK-82 guns, 106 rockets for M-79 rocket launchers, 68 60-mm mortar shells, and six mines. On 17 March, the forces in Pursat Province and an armed unit of Phnum Kravanh District launched a mop-up operation as well as an ambush of the enemies in an area southeast of the district, putting out of action 24 enemy soldiers—11 killed and 13 wounded—including a division-level commander. We seized one K-54 pistol, three AK's, over 200 rounds of ammunition, 20 hand grenades, and a great quantity of war material.

In a search-and-destroy operation mounted on 18 March, our Armed Forces killed 13 enemy soldiers, seized 10 guns and 100 rockets, and destroyed over three metric tons of ammunition. In the 3d Military Region, our forces killed 15, wounded 20, and captured 24 enemy soldiers. We seized 15 guns and discovered an

enemy arms stockpile with ^{232 assorted guns,} three sets of C-25 field radios, and one ^{radio.}

In summing up, our People's Armed Forces throughout the country last week put out of action 517 enemy soldiers, including 243 killed, 195 wounded, 25 captured, and 54 surrendered. We seized 385 assorted firearms and over 30 metric tons of ammunition. In light of our activities and successes, it is significant that our heroic units, cadres, and combatants in Divisions 286, 179, 4, and 6, and in the 94th and 95th brigades as well as in other armed units of Banteay Meanchey and Kompong Cham Provinces, have achieved great successes in battling and decimating the enemies.

Commentary on UN Peace Role, Khmer Rouge Plan

*BK2503141190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Mar 90*

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "Deception Against Goodwill"—date not given]

[Text] Since the launch of the initiative calling for UN involvement in the organization of elections in Cambodia according to the Namibia model, and the plan put forth by Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, the State of Cambodia has made concessions one after the other—with the aim of restoring peace—in the process of seeking a political solution to the Cambodian problem. The State of Cambodia has, in principle, accepted the establishment in Cambodia of an interim, effective UN mechanism in the transitional period. The role of the mechanism is to oversee the implementation of international agreements on Cambodia, organize general elections, and supervise the process of the elections.

Inside the country, the State of Cambodia has also put forth a just proposal—during the transition leading to the elections and the establishment of a new government in Cambodia—to keep in place the existing two governments and to create a supreme national council. This is a concession of vital importance made by the State of Cambodia, after the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia in late September 1989, to clear the way for an early, durable settlement of the Cambodian problem.

It is obvious that the goodwill of the State of Cambodia has promoted a great many consultative meetings on the Cambodian situation, especially early this year. The three rounds of talks held by the representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the Hun Sen-Sihanouk dialogue in Bangkok, and the Jakarta informal meeting are all active efforts to promote the search for a settlement of the Cambodian problem. Therefore, the State of Cambodia has done more than enough in the quest for a political solution to the Cambodian problem. We have continuously made overtures and created favorable conditions to enhance the settlement of the Cambodian conflict, which has dragged on for more than 11 years. However, the Cambodian opposition groups, under the trademark of the

Democratic Kampuchea coalition and with the Pol Pot force as backbone, have until now—despite a new, promising situation for a settlement created by the State of Cambodia and countries concerned—maintained an adamant, obsolete stance demanding time and again the dissolution of the State of Cambodia in the process of a settlement of the Cambodian problem. This is not only most unjust but also extremely dangerous for Cambodia and its people.

In fact, the Cambodians of the other side led Pol Pot, Sihanouk, and Son Sann are conducting a double-edged strategy on the Cambodian problem. They base their hope on the protracted war and practice the scheme that if something cannot be controlled, it must be completely destroyed. As revealed in a recent issue of the French newspaper [name indistinct], the Pol Pot group's strategy—which is endorsed by China—is to prolong the war in Cambodia for two more years. According to foreign reports, Beijing is currently preparing to ship more armaments and ammunition for the Sihanouk and Son Sann groups, because Beijing needs to use the two forces as a shield for the Pol Pot group at a time when the danger of a Pol Pot return creates horror in the whole world.

Besides this gambit, when they were repeatedly defeated on the battlefield in the past, the Pol Pot group has always hindered efforts to resolve the Cambodian problem in all arenas through its veto, such as over resolutions adopted in Paris and Jakarta, to hamper the progress achieved in settling the Cambodian problem. This is more than enough to reveal the Pol Pot group's obvious objective to demand the dissolution of the State of Cambodia Government with the aim of grasping the opportunity to return unchecked to Cambodia and to repeat the genocidal policy.

We wish to reaffirm that the key to a settlement of the Cambodian problem does not rest on the dissolution of the Cambodian Government or placing the State of Cambodia under a full UN trusteeship during the transitional period. This would impair Cambodia's sovereignty, causing social and economic disorder as well as obstructing the process of free elections. Moreover, this would provide an opportunity for the Pol Pot group to use force to retake power when the State of Cambodia—which is the only force capable of confronting the group—was dismantled. The role of the United Nations in the settlement of the Cambodian problem in the transition should guarantee Cambodia's independence, neutrality, nonalignment, and national sovereignty. It should not in any case allow the genocidal regime to regain power in the country.

Article Discusses Indochinese Communist Party

BK2303031190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
23 Mar 90 p 4

[Article by Jacques Bekaert under the rubric "Cambodian Diary" entitled: "Celebrating the Party"]

[Text] "The beacon of Marxism-Leninism!" At least PRACHEACHON, the organ of the ruling Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party (KPRP), still celebrates the virtues of Marxism-Leninism in proper terms. How refreshing for us, poor Indochina watchers, who are beginning to tremble at the idea that soon we may lose our main subject of observation: the communist parties. It is a species that seems to be fast disappearing in most parts of the world, although, as recent free elections in East Germany demonstrated, maybe not as fast as some people would like.

The occasion for PRACHEACHON's (The People) outpouring of emotions was the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the creation of the Indochinese Communist Party (ICP), an event that officially took place on the 3rd of February 1930. The ICP was at first a strictly Vietnamese affair. Cells of the party were established in Cambodia, but members were practically all of Vietnamese (and a few of Chinese) origins. Documents, slogans and pamphlets circulated in Phnom Penh and in the provinces like Takeo, Kampot and Kompong Cham, where the party was active among exploited workers from the rubber plantations, were written in Vietnamese.

According to Ben Kiernan (in his remarkable "How Pol Pot Came to Power," VERSO, London 1985) it is only after 1932, through the "Transbassac Committee" of the ICP, that the first few Khmer members were recruited. As a French Surete document noted in 1934, communist propaganda in Cambodia "is directed only at peasants of the Annamite race." "We have not yet come across a single case of contamination of Cambodians," noted the French police official.

From a revolutionary point of view, the Vietnamese prominent influence on the ICP made sense. Vietnam was the largest country; there was both an anti-colonialist nationalist bourgeoisie and a great potential for communist recruitment among the local proletariat. Vietnam was the only country with the embryo of a working class.

Kiernan quotes a "letter to Comrade in Cambodia" by ICP leaders stating clearly that there was "no question of a separate Cambodian Revolution. There is only a single Indo-Chinese revolution. Indochina being under a single imperialist government, all the revolutionary forces must be unified and grouped under the direction of a single party, the ICP." (Kiernan P.16). Heng Samrin himself, in a speech delivered last February, explained that "the founding of the ICP stemmed from the requirement of the revolutionary struggle and the interests of the peoples in the three countries. It opened a new era in the national and popular cause of the three countries."

The Communist Party of Cambodia (Khmer People's Revolutionary Party) was formally founded on the 28th of June 1951 (The Laotian Party on the 22nd of March 1955). For a while there were even two Cambodian communist parties. One led by Pol Pot (who became secretary-general of the party in 1962) and the new

KPRP [Khmer People's Revolutionary Party], whose existence was revealed after the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime and was led by Pen Sovan. In 1981 the Khmer Rouge officially disbanded the party. Phnom Penh, since 1979, has claimed that the communist party had been ideologically "hijacked" by the Pol Pot group since the sixties, and that the present KPRP was the true heir of the Cambodian branch of the ICP, and the Khmer party of June 1951. Many members of the present KPRP leadership were active in the communist party throughout most of the Pol Pot period, some actually until January 1979. Many of these militants today declare they understood that "something wrong"—as Mr Hun Sen once told us—was going on inside the party, a feeling that prompted a group of militants from the Eastern zone to clash with the Centre (the Pol Pot group) and find temporary refuge in Vietnam.

The 60th anniversary celebration gave the opportunity to party secretary-general Heng Samrin and to the Phnom Penh media to insist on the solidarity existing between the three countries of Indochina today and to the special relations linking the three communist parties. "We are very happy to see that the firm alliance of harmonious solidarity of the three parties, armies and people of Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos, have developed and broadened even more rapidly than ever before on the basis of Marxism-Leninism," explained Heng Samrin. There was only minimal ideological content to the celebratory speeches and articles. The emphasis—besides repeated mention of the special friendship between the three Indochinese countries and the debt of gratitude of Cambodia toward Vietnam—was on the present situation of the country, on the need to strengthen "our revolution against the enemies' weak, deteriorating, rift-ridden and disastrous situation." (Heng Samrin, on Phnom Penh Domestic Service, 3 February). The enemies, added the secretary-general of the KPRP, have not made "any concession in the search for a solution to the Cambodian problem. They have firmly adhered to their strategic manoeuvres, continued kindling the flames of war, and caused grave misery and destruction to our people." This, said Heng Samrin, "is a great pain to our people."

How much of the party is still "Marxist-Leninist" is hard to say. Little has been publicly mentioned about communist ideology since changes were brought to Cambodia's constitution in April 1989. The economy is largely based on free enterprise. The party is in charge, there is no doubt about it, but what the party really believes in is unclear. In that sense, Mr Heng Samrin and PRACHE-ACHON's reference to Marxism-Leninism is quite interesting.

The ICP celebration also gave Heng Samrin a chance to address a few of Cambodia's most pressing internal problems, including corruption, which in the past few months has done a lot to damage the image of the Phnom Penh regime among the local population. "Cadres at all levels and of all sectors must enhance revolutionary ethics and revolutionary zeal in order to set an example

for the people and the masses," he said. "Our words must match with the deeds. Only by doing so will the people have confidence in and follow our party and state." Party cadres, he insisted, should "oppose all such inactive phenomena as greed, corruption, selfishness, and lack of care for the livelihood of the people, cadres, workers.... Oppose all forms of dictatorship, monopoly, favouritism, regionalism, and bureaucratism." It will not be easy, given the party's monopoly on local power, human nature and the seduction of even modest material advantages reserved to—or taken by—so many party cadres.

Sihanouk News Conference in Beijing Reported

BK2803071890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia, said he is not very optimistic about a solution to the Cambodian conflict because many large obstacles remain. Sihanouk said this at a news conference in Beijing on Tuesday [27 March]. The samdech said that since Vietnam continues to support and control the Heng Samrin regime, the Cambodian resistance movement has no other choice but to continue fighting. Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk supports the efforts of the five permanent UN Security Council members. The Cambodian resistance movement agrees to UN-organized elections in Cambodia and the dispatch of a UN peacekeeping force to Cambodia. However, he said free elections in Cambodia would not be proper until all Vietnamese troops and civilians are repatriated to Vietnam. Vietnam has affirmed that its troops were all withdrawn from Cambodia last September. The Heng Samrin regime, propped up by Vietnam, also affirmed that there are no Vietnamese soldiers left in Cambodia. However, the Cambodian resistance movement has evidence on the presence of Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia. Western analysts also agree that there are Vietnamese troops hidden in Cambodia.

Prince Sihanouk said that many Vietnamese civilians have settled in Ratanakiri and Mondolkiri Provinces and that these two provinces are under direct Vietnamese administration. He further specified that Cambodians in the two provinces have become ethnic minorities. He said the Hanoi Vietnamese have published new maps which integrate Cambodian land into Vietnamese territory.

Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk said he will go to Paris, France where the five permanent UN Security Council members will convene another international conference on Cambodia. However, he said he will send Prince Norodom Ranariddh, general secretary of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC], the samdech's personal representative in Cambodia and Asia and commander in chief of the Sihanoukist Nationalist Army, to lead a FUNCINPEC delegation to attend this conference.

VONADK Commends Route 10-Pailin Activities

BK2603010890 (Clandestine) Voice of the National
Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian
2315 GMT 25 Mar 90

["Special commendation to the commanders, male and female combatants, and people on Route 10-Pailin battlefield"—dated 24 March; read by announcer]

[Text] 1. On 23 March, all comrades-in-arms, male and female combatants, and people on Route 10-Pailin battlefield smashed a large-scale campaign of the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and race exterminators. That is, the comrades-in-arms fought against the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and race exterminators and their puppet-lackeys, and totally frustrated the enemies' February-March plan to seize Pailin. As a result:

A. The comrades-in-arms fought fiercely, valiantly, and courageously for over a month, that is from mid-February to 23 March 1990. During this period, the Vietnamese enemies launched onslaughts in an attempt to seize Route 10 and Pailin. In each onslaught, the Vietnamese enemies used thousands of Vietnamese forces and a number of their puppet-lackeys. These onslaughts by thousands of Vietnamese forces were smashed and routed successively and totally by our comrades-in-arms.

B. After September 1989, the Vietnamese forces left behind on Route 10-Battambang battlefield consisted of two-thirds of the 330th Division, two-thirds of the 309th Division, and one-third of the 4th Division. When the national resistance forces attacked and inflicted successive losses on the puppet Heng Samrin-Hun Sen forces and the Hanoi troops hidden on Route 10-Battambang battlefield in October, November, and December 1989—and while Battambang and Siem Reap towns had been under constant siege and pressure and the stretches of railroad and Route 5 from Pursat to Battambang and Route 6 from Kompong Thom to the provincial border of Siem Reap had been cut off for several months—the Hanoi Vietnamese leaders decided to send more Vietnamese troops to help the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin puppet regime. The Vietnamese enemies have sent more troops, thousands at a time, to defend the railroad track, Route 5, Battambang, and Route 10. By now, approximately 30,000 fresh Vietnamese troops have been sent in. On Route 10 battlefield alone, there are nearly 20,000 Vietnamese troops to rescue the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen puppets from their death throes. These Hanoi Vietnamese forces have also been attacked and decimated successively by our comrades-in-arms. By 23 March, our comrades-in-arms had totally smashed, swept, and defeated the Vietnamese-puppet forces on the battlefields along both sides of Route 10.

2. The Supreme Command of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] wishes to make this special commendation to all comrades-in-arms, cadres, male and female combatants, and people on Route 10-Pailin battlefield. In fact, this victory of smashing the

major campaigns of the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors in February and March 1990 on Route 10 battlefield is a common victory on the military, political, diplomatic, and other fronts. It is also the common achievement of all military units on all battlefields and all sectors and the victory of all Cambodian national resistance forces. All comrades-in-arms, cadres, male and female combatants, and people on Route 10-Pailin battlefield played a special role in smashing this major campaign of the Vietnamese enemies.

3. Although it is true that in this valiant, courageous, and fierce fighting, all comrades-in-arms must have become very fatigued, this big victory in smashing the plan of the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and race exterminators is of great significance both at home and abroad, militarily, politically, and diplomatically. All comrades-in-arms should be proud of this victory. However, the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and race exterminators will never abandon their plan to control and annex our beloved Cambodia. The Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and race exterminators have been defeated for the past 11 years by our Cambodian people, but they have continued to struggle on. They struggled and were defeated, but they will struggle on. Therefore, all comrades-in-arms, cadres, male and female combatants, and all people on Pailin battlefield and on all other military fronts throughout the country as well as on the diplomatic and psychological propaganda fronts must always heighten their vigilance and strive to master all views and stances, all measures to prepare and enhance their forces, and all strategies and tactics to attack and smash any other plans of the Vietnamese aggressors and race exterminators.

[Signed] The Supreme Command of the National Army
of Democratic Kampuchea
[Dated] 24 March 1990

SRV Troops Reportedly Using Spy Balloon

BK2703014790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
27 Mar 90 p 6

[Text] Aranyaprathet—Vietnamese soldiers operating with Phnom Penh troops in western Cambodia were reported to have used a radio-controlled balloon to monitor movements of the three resistance forces, according to border sources. The sources said the oval-shaped balloon was two feet long and one foot in diameter. It was believed to contain a camera to take pictures from 1,500-3,000 feet above the ground. The sources said the balloon was controlled by a team of 18 Vietnamese soldiers who had set up an operational base at Ban Pho Sam Ton on kilometre-6 of Route-5, about 3 km from Ban Khok Sabaeng on the Thai border, about 15 km southeast of Aranyaprathet. The balloon was usually released during moonlit nights without strong winds. The sources said the Thai military had taken pictures of the balloon. Officers of the Eastern Task Force, however, said there had been no reports of the balloon.

Fighting in western Cambodia has resumed in the vicinity of Svay Chek on Route-69, about 20 km from the Thai border, after a period of silence. Sounds of fighting were clearly heard in Aranyaprathet and Ta Phraya district.

Laos

Kaysone Phomvihan on Achievements, SRV Ties

*BK2503100590 Vientiane Domestic Service
in Lao 1200 GMT 24 Mar 90*

["Recent" interview given by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, to VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY and television correspondents on the occasion of the party's 35th founding anniversary—read by announcer]

[Text] [Correspondent] On 22 March, the entire Lao party, Army, and masses celebrated the 35th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. On this occasion, would you, comrade, tell us about the initial results and experiences acquired in implementing the renovation policy in Laos since the convening of the fourth party congress?

[Kaysone Phomvihan] Our party's new thinking on renovation was expressed in the resolution adopted at the seventh plenum by the second party Central Committee in 1979. But it was not until the fourth party congress in 1986 that this aspiration was embodied in the concrete demands for comprehensive renovation of our thinking, economic structuring, economic management mechanisms, organization apparatuses, and working style in the economy. We have applied Lenin's new economic policy to the practical conditions of Laos by extensively utilizing the form of state capitalism; utilizing and vigorously promoting the multisectoral economy in which the state-run economic sector is the backbone; abolishing the centralized bureaucratic mechanism of management; switching to the mechanism of business accounting; widely using goods-money relations; ensuring the economic autonomy of the grass-roots units; broadening our external economic relations; and gradually developing the relations between the domestic and international markets. All these are aimed at developing our production forces, redistributing our social work force, and changing our natural and subsistence economy into a commodity economy.

We regard economic renovation as the driving force. At the same time, we also carry out political renovation step by step. First of all, we bring democracy into full play within our party as well as within all of society, improve and heighten the quality of the party leadership and the managerial efficiency of the state, and promote the people's mastership role.

Over the past three years of renovation, we have scored a number of initial achievements. That is, new steps of

development have been observed in business production with the active participation of the various economic sectors. The supply of diversified goods is in abundance. Domestic markets have been expanded and are gradually being linked with the international markets. Our economic foundations have become more dynamic. The livelihood of the people engaging in business production as well as of those who are living in areas where good production and circulation have been carried out has been markedly improved.

Democracy within the party and the entire society has been further and better enhanced. The state apparatus has been streamlined along the direction of being simple and compact, reducing the intermediary levels, increasing efficiency, and gradually separating the function of economic administrative management from that of business production management. All these achievements have enhanced the confidence of the people and have encouraged them to actively implement the policy of renovation.

From our practical experiences acquired in the process of renovation, we have learned the following lessons:

1. In essence, renovation is a lasting, comprehensive, and profound revolutionary process. Therefore, renovation must begin from the genuine interests in the daily life of the masses and the path of [words indistinct]. The party is responsible for charting that path and guiding and organizing the masses in implementing it [words indistinct].
2. Renovation must be carried out under a principled criterion. First of all, we must adhere to the objectives, ideals, and revolutionary path outlined by the party. At the same time, the people's right to mastership in the management of the state under the party leadership must be guaranteed.
3. Comprehensive renovation must be carried out so as to (?coordinate appropriate steps) in economic, cultural, and social (?fields). Renovation in the economic sector must be regarded as (?the driving force), and in the party leadership, as an important factor. All acts of conservatism, (?sluggishness), hesitation, subjectivism, and autocracy must be opposed.

[Correspondent] In light of the current international circumstances, the strengthening of the special relations and cooperation between Vietnam and Laos still remains an act of great significance to the revolutionary cause of each country. Thus, we would like to know your (?views) on this issue both at present and in the future.

[Kaysone Phomvihan] The special relations of friendship and solidarity between Laos and Vietnam, which were nurtured and strengthened by President Ho Chi Minh, have been tested in a long process of militant alliance between the two parties and peoples of Laos and Vietnam. Under the current international circumstances, the strengthening of the special relations and comprehensive cooperation between Laos and Vietnam is of extremely great significance to the revolutionary

cause in each country. We are reiterating that both at present as well in the future we pledge to (?constantly) consolidate and develop the special relations of friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the two parties and peoples; to gradually increase the efficiency and quality of our cooperation in the spirit of mutual assistance and sincerity and under the principle of respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, equality, and mutual benefits with a view to meeting the interests of the people in each country so as to actively contribute to the cause of peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

This is the determination of the high-level leadership of both sides. It is also the aspiration of the peoples in our two countries. I firmly believe that the two parties, states, and peoples of Laos and Vietnam will overcome all difficulties and obstacles (?and do their best) to gradually consolidate and strengthen the special friendship and sincere relations between Laos and Vietnam. This is because these things are the traditional heritage that have been accumulated and preserved with the blood, sweat, hearts, and wisdom of our two fraternal parties and peoples.

Party's 35th Founding Anniversary Marked

Editorial Marks Event

*BK2703122590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0430 GMT 22 Mar 90*

[Editorial: "Wholeheartedly Salute and Greet the 35th Founding Anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party"]

[Text] Today, 22 March 1990, our entire party, people, and armed forces are joyously celebrating a glorious, historical day for the nation—the 35th anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP]. This year, the celebration of this glorious, historical day is taking place at a time when our entire nation is rejoicing over the new achievements and victories scored in implementing the party's line on effecting new changes in the economic, political, and foreign fields. It is also taking place at a time when our entire people are greatly encouraging each other to enthusiastically implement the second five-year state plan—particularly, the fourth LPRP Central Committee's fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth resolutions—to score worthy achievements to welcome, with profound significance, the party's 35th anniversary. New signs and new phenomena are emerging as never before in the implementation of the party's new concepts in the political and economic fields. The entire people's elation and vitality have proven the LPRP's correct, clear-sighted, and creative leadership. Various resolutions, plans, and policies that are included in common and specific lines, particularly the party's economic line, have been brought into full play in all respects. As a result, the shape of our country has been changed as never before in its thousands of years of history.

Following the upsurge in implementation of the new concepts in the economic field and the broadening of economic relations and cooperation with foreign countries, implementation of our country's two strategic tasks—the defense and perfection of the popular democratic system—has entered a new stage and a new process of the revolution in the initial transition to socialism. It has opened a new era for the country to march forward to achieve a bright goal. Facts about the LPRP's leadership throughout the past 35 years have proven that the party's correct line serves as a factor determining all of the revolution's victories. The party's leadership has brought about absolute confidence in the hearts of all Lao people. Organizational work has been thoroughly carried out from the central down to the grass-roots and local levels. The party's leadership banner has been enhanced and perfected, and it has been joyously appreciated by officers and men as well as cadres and workers everywhere. It has also brought good future prospects for them. Multiethnic people of all ages and both sexes have actively promoted and expanded the spirit of maintaining collective mastery and being owners of the country. This spirit has become the nation's common strength and is the fruit of the new production force and of new revolutionary movements, which have become stronger with each passing day and which cannot be defeated by any counterrevolutionary power.

With regard to our armed forces, due to their activities in encouraging and organizing the implementation of the various party and state resolutions over the past 15 years for building and defending the country and perfecting the popular democratic system, new phenomena and models have also emerged. Along with outstanding movements carried out by all the people, the movements to turn to the grass roots, to encourage the people and military units to fulfill tasks, have also been carried out successfully. As a result, our Army's strength has been enhanced and our Army has switched from old concepts to new ones and from quantity to quality. The internal solidarity in our Army's ranks has been strengthened and its sense of combat readiness further enhanced. The Army and people have come to understand and agree to the party's political, military, foreign, and economic policies, and have come to clearly understand the Army's revolutionary cause and tasks in the new stage. The entire Army has also joyously, actively, and increasingly consolidated, perfected, and strengthened its organizational system.

The last 10 years, particularly 1989, were years in which our armed forces and people engaged in fierce, furious fighting and surmounted various difficulties and complexities resulting from war's aftermath. Our country is an underdeveloped country. Yet, a number of ill-intentioned elements have sneaked into our country and carried out activities opposing our new system. However, the last 10 years were a period in which our Army was increasingly consolidated and strengthened and closely joined with the people in securely defending the

new system, from north to south, thus contributing to building the economy, improving living conditions, and scoring achievements in many fields in implementing the second five-year state plan in the final year, achievements which serve as a firm basis for them to march forward in the next stage.

Though the 15-year period for defense of the country and consolidation and perfection of the popular democratic system and even the 35-year period under the party's leadership are not considered a long time when compared to the nation's history, it has been a period in which our Army and people have unprecedentedly enjoyed and appreciated the talented, clear-sighted leadership of the LPRP with Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihane as head. It has been a period in which the party led the Lao nation, whose people had been buried in the dark of intimidation and oppression by the old, rotten ruling regime and had become foreigners' slaves, to become an independent, sovereign country which enjoys equal rights, freedom, and democracy.

In its rule, our party has paid special attention to upholding the people's right to collective mastery, to earning a living, to trade, and to believing and practicing popular customs, and to promoting and encouraging all citizens to gradually step up crop cultivation and livestock breeding, going from families that carry out subsistence production to families that produce goods. Along with encouraging the farmers to positively take part in production to improve living conditions, our party has paid close attention to increasingly consolidating, fostering, nourishing, educating, training, and strengthening the armed forces. It has built and trained the Army to maintain a resolute, heroic combat spirit and a pure spirit of being unceasingly loyal to the party and the people, and to serve as a sharp, reliable tool of the party and the country.

Throughout the process of organizing and leading all of the Lao revolution's victories in the past 35 years, our party has scored marvelous achievements in many fields. The successes in establishing the Lao People's Democratic Republic and in securely defending revolutionary gains over the past 15 years have proven the truth of our party's leadership. They have also proven that only under the leadership of the LPRP—a genuine Marxist-Leninist party—can the people's living conditions be improved, the shape of the country be explicitly changed, and the country achieve a bright, prosperous future. The historic achievements and victories scored under the LPRP's leadership are considered merely initial achievements and victories. The cause of building and developing the country and promoting and expanding the popular democratic system remains very heavy, difficult, and complicated. The construction task must, therefore, be carried out along with the defense task. The defense task is considered a priority task in the revolution as it is aimed at checking all sabotage and subversive schemes of ill-intentioned elements against our country's restructuring.

To guarantee social order, guarantee the people's peaceful life, and fulfill the tasks and responsibilities entrusted by history, the party, and the nation, the first important thing to do is to heighten revolutionary vigilance and step up implementation of the party's line on the entire people's comprehensive defense of the country in order to quickly smash the counterrevolutionaries' activities against our revolution. This is considered an important political task for our entire Army and people. To effectively combine national defense with national construction and combine economic building with national defense and public security maintenance, each and every worker and farmer, particularly officers and men of each corps and unit, must strive to boost production, resolutely defend the country, and strengthen solidarity between the Army and the people to create a new overall strength to build a prosperous country.

Our party is a party of the proletarian class. It is considered a vanguard of the Lao nation's massive revolution which has further pursued the traditions and cause of the former Indochinese Communist Party. Moreover, over the past half century, the party's leadership has been closely linked with all steps of the revolution's victories. For this reason, further building and strengthening of the party in all fields is considered an objective goal of significance to economic restructuring in our country. Our party, from the General Staff Department down to grass-roots units, must be strengthened. All party members attached to factories or workshops and youth unions must be also strengthened. The party's strength is reflected in the notable success of party units in carrying out the leadership role. It is also seen through the fulfillment of all party lines and policies. All cadres and party members, no matter what circumstances they may be in, must pay attention to the quality and competence of their work. They must correctly comply with the party's instructions on serving as leaders loyal to the party and the people's interests. They must enable the party to gain sufficient strength to fulfill its heavy, but honorable and glorious cause in the new stage of the revolution.

Rejoicing over the party's 35th anniversary, our Army and people would like to express gratitude to our party and would like to forever engrave in the hearts of all cadres and combatants its instructions. Our cadres and combatants pledge to sacrifice their lives to the cause of the party and the nation for the benefit and happiness of the multiethnic people. Let our Army hold aloft the 22 March traditions, enhance revolutionary traditions, and actively march forward to translate into reality the Fourth LPRP Central Committee's fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth resolutions and the various orientations and tasks for 1990 adopted by the party.

SRV Envoy Greets Party

*BK2603142190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] On the morning of 22 March, SRV Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Laos Comrade

Nguyen Xuan and representatives of Vietnamese specialists performing internationalist duties in Laos visited the party Central Committee office in Vientiane to extend congratulations to the party leadership on the occasion of the 35th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP]. On hand at the office to warmly welcome the Vietnamese guests were Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, party Central Committee Political Bureau member and Supreme People's Assembly chairman; Oudom Khatthi-gna, alternate Political Bureau member and head of the party Central Committee's Organizational Board; Maisouk Saisompheng, party Central Committee member and head of the office of the party Central Committee and of the Council of Ministers; and Thongsavat Khaikhamphithoun, party Central Committee member and first deputy foreign affairs minister.

Comrade Ambassador Nguyen Xuan presented a bouquet of flowers sent by Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh to the LPRP Central Committee, congratulating it for the great achievements and victories scored by the multiethnic Lao people over the past 35 years under the leadership of the majestic and noble party. At the same time, the ambassador also wished the LPRP new, greater victories in fulfilling the tasks of defending and building the country, especially in carrying out the task of renovation so that the party will always remain the fit organizer and leader of all victories of the Lao revolution. Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan thanked the ambassador for his fine words. He stressed: The Lao party, state, and multiethnic people will do our best to strengthen and make everlasting the special Lao-Vietnamese solidarity, friendship, and cooperation painstakingly built, nurtured, and promoted by beloved and respected President Ho Chi Minh.

Leaders Receive Call From Indonesian Envoy

*BK2503063490 Vientiane Domestic Service
in Lao 1200 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] This morning [24 March] in the Vientiane capital, Phoun Sipaseut, Council of Ministers vice-chairman and foreign affairs minister, received a farewell call from Bambang Sumantri, whose three-year term as Indonesian ambassador to Laos has expired. On the morning of the same day at the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance, Sali Vongkhamso, Council of Ministers vice-chairman and minister of economy, planning, and finance, also received a farewell call from the Indonesian ambassador. On both occasions, Phoun Sipaseut and Sali Vongkhamso hailed and praised the ambassador for his active contributions to building and strengthening the relations and cooperation between the two countries during his service here. They also wished him success in his new assignment.

Social Science Delegation Leaves for SRV

*BK2803094290 Vientiane KPL in English 0854 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Vientiane, March 28 (KPL)—A delegation of the Social Science Committee led by its president, Sisana Sisan, left here on March 27 for Hanoi, Vietnam, to attend an international seminar in commemoration of the centenary of the late President Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam.

Seeing the delegation off at the airport were senior officials of the committee and Nguyen Xuan, ambassador of Vietnam to Laos.

Philippines

Notice of Termination on Bases Recommended

*HK2803020590 Manila Far East Broadcasting
Company in Tagalog 2300 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[Text] The president's committee on the bases will recommend to President Aquino that she issue a notice of termination on the military bases before the exploratory talks begin on 18 April. Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus made this statement at a news conference. He added that the committee, made up of the Joint Executive-Legislative Bases Council and the Philippine panel, have regular meetings in order to outline the Philippines' strategy in the talks.

Manglapus Denies Recommendation

*HK2803102590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Italicized portion in English]

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus denied a published report that the Executive Bases Council is set to recommend the presentation of a notice of termination on the U.S. military bases in the Philippines. Manglapus told newsmen in Malacanang that the council has not yet met and there is still no such recommendation.

Meanwhile, Manglapus refused to comment on a statement by a U.S. military officer who called the Philippines a basket case because of serious graft and corruption in the country. Manglapus also refused to acknowledge the U.S. officer's remarks, and instead stated:

[Begin Manglapus recording] *All I know about that is what has come up in the press reports, which we always read.* [end recording]

Manglapus added that he only responds to statements by foreign secretaries.

However, the report that Manglapus denied was published in newspapers. It claimed that the president has been urged to serve a notice of termination on the U.S. military bases lease before the exploratory talks between the Philippines and the U.S. begin.

Official Urges Conversion Plan, Joint Base Use*HK2803054390 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 0400 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Text] Jose Abueva, the University of the Philippines' president and chairman of the Joint Executive-Legislative Bases Committee, explained that 90 percent of Clark Air Base and 70 percent of Subic Naval Base had already been returned to the Philippines and that the government should start its conversion plan for this sites:

[Begin Abueva recording] I want to inform our listeners that, at present, 90 percent of the original Clark Air Base has been returned to us, which means that only 10 percent of Clark is occupied by American forces and facilities. Ninety percent of the Clark Air Base area is already with us. On Subic Naval Base, 70 percent of its original area had already been returned to us. We have big plans for this sites. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Abueva said that we could use a large portion of Clark to construct a wide airport:

[Begin Abueva recording] What we in the bases council want is—before 1991 comes, before the Military Bases Agreement expires—joint use of the bases, which means that we want to use the Clark Air Base at the soon as possible for an air cargo transshipment because the Ninoy Aquino International Airport is already heavily loaded. [end recording]

Manglapus Says No 'Visible Conversion Plans'*HK2803035390 Manila BUSINESS WORLD
in English 28 Mar 90 p 12*

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus downplayed U.S. claims to viable alternative sites for its bases in the West Pacific as he disclosed the Philippines does not yet have visible conversion plans for Clark and Subic in the event of a U.S. pullout.

Mr Manglapus, who departs this Thursday on a swing through Guam, Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Saipan reminiscent of a previous trip during the 1988 bases review, remarked that "while there has always been talk about Guam, for instance, as a substitute area for relocation (of the bases), I have no information that it's been serious."

However, "we would like to be more informed," he said, while noting that the primary purpose of his visit is to strengthen ties with the emergent Pacific republic and the exploration of business opportunities for the Philippines.

"They need investment in industry and expertise in manufacture. Along with our investment, there would be necessity for our labor. They deserve our attention... We can benefit from the special (trading) privileges these countries have with more developed countries such as the U.S.," Mr Manglapus said.

Already, there are some 13,000 Filipino workers in Saipan.

On the downside, the bases conversion committee headed by University of the Philippines president Jose Abueva "is not yet ready to come up with its final conclusions on the conversion of the bases," the Foreign Affairs Secretary revealed.

Interestingly enough, Mr Manglapus reacted to controversy over the Galido affidavit by commenting that Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) activities in the Philippines "are nothing new."

"I would be very shocked if I was told that the CIA was not active here," he said, commenting that "CIA is active everywhere and it is their mandate, apparently. We just have to live with that."

"What is important to us is that they are not exempt from our laws," he stressed.

With regard to U.S. attempt to make up \$96 million in shortfall through the transfer of food aid and a tugboat, the Philippine side is currently in "the process of re-examining the figures," Mr Manglapus said, revealing that a clarificatory note sent by the U.S. indicated "the U.S. position that they are continuing to seek ways to fully implement the agreement."

Mr Manglapus will be accompanied in his visit by the envoy of Spain and Mexico, Enrique Romeu and Hector Ibarra, respectively, and the Chilean charge d'affaires Jose Ilabaca. "They are taking this opportunity to work out details of preparation for the 5th Centennial of the Age of Hispanic Exploration," Mr Manglapus explained.

Bishops-Businessmen Group Polled on Bases Issue*HK2803034590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 28 Mar 90 pp 1, 7*

[By staff member Chay Florentino]

[Text] Members of the influential Bishops-Businessmen's Conference [BBC] are adopting a wait and see attitude toward the U.S. military facilities here, results of a recent survey showed.

Dr. Mahar Mangahas, president of the Social Weather Stations (SWS), said survey taken from December last year to March this year showed that 41% of the respondents are keeping an "options open" position on the bases. Whether or not the members will favor the continued presence of the bases will depend on the new terms the Philippine Government will obtain from the U.S. in the forthcoming bases negotiations.

Of the 447 members of the BBC, 95 responded to the survey questions for a 21.3% response rate. Mangahas said this already indicates the preferences of the BBC members.

When asked whether the present compensation is "highly inadequate," 82% of the respondents gave a "resounding yes." Only 10% said "no." The current bases package provides for a \$962-million compensation

over the last two years of the current lease agreement which expires in September 1991.

Thirty percent of those surveyed said the bases agreement should be definitely terminated in 1991, while 25% said the pact should be extended.

On whether or not the bases are an infringement on Philippine sovereignty, Mangahas said those who said yes are "slightly stronger." The bishops, he said, emerged more progressive than the businessmen, with 46% saying the bases infringe on Philippine sovereignty.

Overall, 56% of the BBC members also said the bases are important to the defense of the Philippines against external threat, while 56% said they were not crucial to the internal security of the country. Mangahas pointed out that the respondents who said the military facilities were not important to external defense also said they were not important for internal security.

Mangahas said most respondents favored seven years as the "median years of extension" on the bases pact. The bishops preferred 10 years, while the businessmen in Metro Manila wanted six. Those in the provinces opted for five years, while those who chose to remain anonymous agreed on seven.

When asked whether they favored a renewable extension of the agreement, 50% of BBC members replied in the affirmative. Among the bishops, 50% said "no" while 20% said "yes." The undecided, according to Mangahas, opted for a "shorter extension and less renewability."

On when a referendum on the bases should be called, Mangahas said respondents were "highly divided." They were given three options: before an executive agreement is completed; after an agreement is made but before its ratification by the Senate; and after the Senate decides whether or not to ratify the agreement. Forty-one percent said the referendum should be held before an executive agreement is completed, 37% said it should be before the Senate decision, and 22% said it should be held after the Senate decision.

NPA Said Planning To Kill U.S. Personnel

HK2703114790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 27 Mar 90

[By Vic Pambuan]

[Excerpts] PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] chief Major General Ramon Montano has placed all PC and police units nationwide on full red alert as the 29th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines approaches.

In this regard, Montano ordered Region 4 PC-INP Commander Brigadier General Evaristo Carino to launch an all-out offensive against the communist rebels in the region.

An earlier report addressed to Brig. Gen. Flores, PC-INP intelligence commander, stated that rebel terrorists will launch their tactical offensive against isolated military installations around the country. Flores said that he has advised his men in a briefing that the NPA [New People's Army] will launch commando-type operations under the NPA general command in any part of the country, including the urban centers. [passage omitted]

The report also said that the rebel communists will attack military detachments, liquidate American military personnel, and engage in car theft to gather vehicles they could use in ambushing military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Colonel Reynaldo Wycoco, Quezon Province PC-INP commander, told Montano that he has already deployed PC troops in the Bondoc Peninsula to thwart any attack by the NPA. Wycoco also said that they have already identified the location of the headquarters of the Southern Tagalog regional party committee, which was the major objective of a military operation launched in the area.

The recent series of killings and ambushes of military personnel allegedly proved that the communist movement has recovered after it halted its operations following offensives launched by the military throughout the country. The NPA forces reportedly became stronger after it recruited new members, some of whom are believed to be rebel soldiers who decided to go to the mountains after realizing they would be punished by the government for their participation in the failed December coup d'etat.

SRV, Government To Hold Bilateral Consultations

OW2703115390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0945 GMT
27 Mar 90

[Text] Manila, March 27 KYODO—The Philippines and Vietnam will begin their first annual bilateral consultation here on Thursday aimed at forging closer relations and enhancing regional stability, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced Tuesday.

The holding of the two-day consultation was agreed upon during the visit to Hanoi by Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus in November 1988. The meeting was scheduled last December but was postponed because of an attempted coup in Manila.

"In the course of the consultations, the two sides will exchange views on the domestic political and economic situation in their respective countries on regional and international issues of mutual interest," a press statement by the Foreign Office said.

Vietnam's previous assurances that it would not move against Philippines-held territory in the disputed Spratley group of islands in the South China Sea was "indeed significant" in fostering warmer relations with Manila, a department official said.

Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

*HK2703092790 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0900 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of Czechoslovakia has arrived in the country. Deputy Foreign Minister Vera Bartovskova is here for a three-day visit which will include talks with top government officials. The Czechoslovak visitor will also meet with His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin.

The archbishop of Manila was the highest-ranking church leader to visit Moscow even before reforms for greater religious freedom in East European countries were introduced.

Aquino on Legislation for Taiwan Investment

*HK2703023590 Manila Far East Broadcasting
Company in English 2300 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] President Aquino said there was no need for special legislation to protect Taiwan investment in the Philippines as existing laws were sufficient. Several congressmen have filed a bill known as the Philippines-Taiwan Relations Act that would guarantee Taiwan investment in the Philippines from being approved or appropriated by China. The Philippines broke diplomatic ties with Taipei in the 1970's and recognized Beijing, although it still allows Taiwan businessmen to invest in the country. Investment from Taiwan is now the fastest growing in the country.

Aquino Requests Delay of Galido Investigation

*HK2703115790 Manila Manila Broadcasting
Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[Italicized portion in English]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has requested the Senate to temporarily postpone its scheduled investigation on former Southern Luzon Command chief Brigadier General Alejandro Galido. In her meeting with senators, the president appealed to them to delay for three weeks the scheduled Senate investigation on Galido's expose implicating the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, former First Lady Imelda Marcos, and opposition Congressman Homobono Adaza. The president explained that Galido is in bad health. In a news briefing, Press Undersecretary Horacio Paredes said:

[Begin Paredes recording] *She asked the Senate, which wanted to do an investigation on General Galido, she asked them if they could wait for three weeks before inviting Galido to this hearing at the camp because she said that he is not in the very best of health, was brought over to the U.S. in February, and is undergoing blood transfusion.* [end recording]

The president stressed that Galido has to get himself in better shape before facing thorough investigation.

Earlier, the government confirmed that Galido is a government spy infiltrating the ranks of the coup plotters. He is presently confined in a military hospital under tight security.

Aquino To Convince Senators of Oil Standby Fund

*HK2703023790 Manila Far East Broadcasting
Company in English 2300 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] President Aquino will meet with senators in Malacanang to seek their cooperation in approving the 5-billion-peso energy standby fund. Again here is our Malacanang correspondent Gwen Morelina.

[Begin recording] President Aquino said the matter of settling the claims of oil companies has to be settled first before energy regulation of oil prices can take place. In connection with this, she said she will be meeting with 13 senators in Malacanang to seek the lawmakers cooperation in approving the 5-billion-peso energy standby oil measure now pending in the Senate. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Holds Meeting; Warns of Unrest

*HK2703121990 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television
Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[From "GMA News" program]

[Text] The president today warned that rightist elements may take advantage of an increase in the prices of petroleum products. The warning was aired by the president in a meeting with 24 senators headed by Senate President Jovito Salonga. Consequently, the senators promised to work hard for the passage of the 5-billion-peso energy standby fund before the Easter recess.

According to Senator Rene Saguisag, it was their intention to pass the oil price stabilization fund even without the request from the president. They unanimously agreed that the fund is a moral and legal obligation of the government to oil companies.

Senators Assure No Increase

*HK2803030590 Manila Far East Broadcasting
Company in English 2300 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[Text] There will be no increase in the prices of petroleum products until the end of this year unless there is a major increase in the price of oil products in the world market. This assurance was made after 14 senators promised President Aquino that they will approve the 5-billion-peso energy standby fund before they go on recess on April 6. The fund is needed to shore up the depleted oil price stabilization fund and prevent another fuel price increase.

President Aquino met with the senators yesterday to press for the passage of the measure creating the energy standby fund. Senate President Jovito Salonga assured Mrs Aquino of the oil fund's approval. Budget Undersecretary Benjamin Diokno assured the senators that the

government will make sure the three oil companies will not take advantage of the energy standby fund.

Party Rejects Agrarian Secretary's Confirmation

HK2803031990 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] The ruling Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [LDP—Struggle of Philippine Democrats] dashed hopes of Florencio Abad of being confirmed as secretary of the Agrarian Reform when it decided to reject his nomination in the Commission on Appointments. According to the ruling party, Abad cannot be confirmed because of its [as heard] antilabor and anti-industrialist stance. The party caucus affirmed an earlier decision by LDP executive committee which met in Makati to take up the party stand on the controversy. Commission on Appointments [CA] vice chairman, Representative Miguel Romero, said that in the first place Abad's appointment is not even on the agenda of the appointments body which holds its plenary session today. The showdown on Abad's confirmation will not take place until April 4, the last CA session before Congress goes into its Holy Week recess on April 6.

House Speaker Ramon Mitra said the LDP voted to reject Abad's appointment because he has become controversial in a job where the need is for a secretary who will be able to marshal support for the agrarian reform program. Mitra added Abad can no longer achieve the government's goals for the farmers because of his confrontational stance, apparently referring to Abad's decision to take the side of the farmers and the controversy over the conversion of the 230-hectare government property in Dasmarinas, Cavite into an industrial estate. The CA deferred Abad's confirmation six times mainly due to his position on the Cavite land sale.

Aquino Approves Land Conversion Guidelines

HK2703030990 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 27 Mar 90 pp 1, 6

[By David June Sta. Ana]

[Text] Malacanang approved yesterday new guidelines allowing certain types of agricultural land to be exempted from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and converted into industrial estates.

The new guidelines are expected to prevent a repetition of the controversy over the planned conversion of a government-owned property in Dasmarinas, Cavite, into an industrial estate to be developed by the Marubeni Corp. of Japan.

The guidelines were drawn up by the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC), an interagency committee created by President Aquino nearly two weeks ago following the Cavite land controversy. The PARC interagency committee had for its chairman Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon and Agrarian Reform Secretary designate Florencio Abad as vice chairman.

Abad, whose confirmation was repeatedly bypassed by the Commission on Appointments (CA) for refusing to take the government's side in the Cavite land row, said yesterday he hoped he would now be able to get the CA's nod with the release of the guidelines. The CA is due to take up his case again tomorrow.

Mrs. Aquino echoed Abad's optimism in announcing approval of the land conversion guidelines.

The ruling Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], which had stalled Abad's confirmation, met last night to discuss the PARC guidelines.

Speaker Ramon V. Mitra said the party will hold a caucus this afternoon to deliberate on the LDP executive committee's decision on the PARC guidelines. He refused to say whether or not the LDP is now taking a positive stand on Abad's case.

The highlights of the new guidelines are as follows:

Owners of lands classified as residential, commercial and/or industrial prior before June 15, 1988, the day the land reform law was enacted, and has been approved by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, need not apply with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) for a conversion order.

The DAR however will intervene in such conversion where cases there are tenants in the property to make sure their rights under the law are protected.

Lands devoted to or suitable for agriculture as a general rule will not be converted for nonagricultural use, unless the area is highly urbanized or agricultural production is no longer feasible; or the land has been classified as commercial, industrial, residential under the new or revised town plans prepared by a task force where DAR is a member.

There will now be greater collaboration among the departments of agriculture, agrarian reform, trade and industry, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and other government agencies in the town planning process. Nongovernmental organizations will also be consulted in this process.

Lands which have already been converted by notices of acquisition, voluntary land transfer and stock distribution plan can no longer be converted to nonagricultural use.

Malacanang said the new guidelines would make the establishment of residential, commercial and industrial areas easier "as long as these areas will be put up in the appropriate zones.

The other differences in the new guidelines as compared to the old one are:

The DAR will encourage developers to give homelots and jobs to displaced farmers, aside from disturbance compensation.

The term "prime agricultural lands" has been changed to "lands devoted to or suitable for agriculture." This is a broader definition of farm lands and could be easily made operational through the suitability classification carried out by the agriculture department.

All conversions are now subject to a certificate of ecological soundness from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Abad said applications for land conversion filed under the old guidelines will be processed and decided upon based on the old guidelines. Applications after the approval of the new guidelines will cover new applications but if there were errors in the old applications, the new guidelines will be used, he said.

Abad also said the DAR will treat similar cases like that of the NDC [National Development Corporation]-Marubeni on a case-to-case basis, although he said he is not aware of any similar case as yet. In "gray situations," the PARC will be convened to decide the issue, he said.

Abad admitted farmers' groups are not so keen on the new guidelines, adding that the farmers want greater participation in the town planning process. He said he would meet with farmers' groups soon to explain the new guidelines.

Mrs Aquino expressed confidence that the CA will finally confirm Abad.

"I am confident that after the congressmen have seen those guidelines they will indeed confirm the appointment of Secretary Abad," she said. "I believe (Abad) is a very credible secretary especially insofar as the farmers are concerned."

Abad himself said he would follow the guidelines for the obvious reason that he was one of those who drafted and signed it.

Earlier, in a speech before international delegates to a land reform conference delivered in Malacanang, the President vowed that her government will see to it that the CARP succeeds to finally bring "social and economic justice to our peasantry."

"In the past, land reform programs failed largely due to stiff resistance from the landlords who resented the program's perceived confiscatory nature and what they felt was their due compensation," Mrs. Aquino said. "There still is substantial opposition to the present program from those whose property rights over huge landholdings will have to defer to the greater right of equity and social justice for the peasantry."

The President said these landowners should overcome their selfish interest and think of the large peasantry group. "I am thus using this occasion to challenge those

quarters that are blocking the implementation of CARP, perhaps due to politics or other reasons, to match the political will of the executive branch so that we may attain our development goals faster," she added.

"An honest agrarian reform program that shall effect the equitable distribution of land, within the context of national development priorities, to all who deserve it, will correct the flawed development strategies of the past," she said.

16 Senators Propose Coup as 'Crime of State'

HK2803045590 Baguio City Mountain Province
Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Sixteen senators, led by Senate President Jovito Salonga, (?proposed) today the classification of coup d'etat as a new crime of the state under existing crimes of rebellion and (?sedition). [Words indistinct] for the new penalty, life imprisonment for the rest of their natural life. Under present laws, the life [words indistinct] to 30 years. The proposal was made in the still unnumbered bill. The lawmakers said that coup d'etat should be punished more severely than an ordinary rebellion because it is directed at the seat of government chaired by people within the government.

Ramos Orders Private Armies in Negros Disarmed

HK2603052590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 26 Mar 90 pp 1, 3

[By staffmember Manny Mogato]

[Text] Bacolod City—Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos has ordered the military Saturday to dismantle and disarm all Caggu [Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit] companies used by rich sugar planters as private armies.

In a meeting with Negros Occidental provincial and municipal executives in this city, Ramos said all Caggu companies financed by the rich landowners in the province should be controlled and supervised by the local military authorities.

"We cannot allow anymore the organization of self-defense units that is not tied up with the military," he told Negros Occidental leaders led by Gov. Daniel Lacson. "If we don't control this practice, then, we might as well be a large security agency."

Ramos also ordered local military authorities to review the policies on the organization of special Caggu units because some landowners have been using this as an excuse to build their own army.

The military and provincial officials have been at odds with each other following the confiscation of several high-powered weapons from civilian security escorts of sugar planters.

Lt. Col. Reynaldo Velasco, the new PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] commander, has set up checkpoints around the province to recover

loose firearms, especially those at the hands of sugar planters and used by their private armies.

The sugar planters joined hands with the local officials in protesting the alleged indiscriminate seizure of firearms, claiming the arms were used by the Cagfus in their security duty.

There are about 1,500 civilians in the province that were recruited as special Cagfu volunteers. They were financed and equipped by the sugar planters through the Sugar Development Foundation (SDF), which have been collecting P[pesos]5 for every picul of sugar produced by the sugar planters in the province. The SDF reportedly collects an average of P50 million a year and part of the money was used to equipped and pay Cagfu units deployed to protect their sugar lands from rebel attack and harassment.

Civilians recruited as special Cagfu volunteers enjoy more benefits and a higher pay than ordinary Cagfu volunteers, which were trained and equipped by the local military units. An ordinary Cagfu volunteer only gets P900 allowance and a hospitalization and burial benefit from the Government but a special Cagfu enjoys additional benefit such as housing, food, and insurance premiums on top of a P1,200 to P1,500 monthly allowance.

The military said the recruitment and deployment of special Cagfu units would only be divisive since ordinary Cagfu units would find reason to envy their "special" counterparts.

Since the military do not have full control over the special Cagfu, the loyalty of volunteers recruited as a special Cagfu would be doubted.

The military began last month a province-wide crack-down on special Cagfu units after receiving complaints that some sugar planters were bringing along Cagfu volunteers whenever they went out of their sugar plantations or haciendas. Velasco, in a report to Ramos, said special Cagfus often go out of their territorial jurisdiction because they are utilized as bodyguards of sugar planters. The presence of a large group of heavily-armed men, though in uniform, worries civilians particularly those in the rural areas. Several convoys of Cagfu men escorting their sugar planter-employer or sometimes by local town executives have been stopped by the military.

During the same consultative Peace and Order Council meeting, Velasco explained that the Cagfus have no special permit to carry firearms outside their territorial jurisdiction. They are not supposed to operate outside their territory except during hot pursuit or any police action operations.

Meanwhile, Ramos extended until today the registration of all loose firearms for inventory and documentation.

There are about 200,000 loose arms in the country, a big bulk of which are believed to be with the criminal syndicates, separatist groups and communist guerrillas.

Honasan Recruitment Drive in Bicol Fails

*HK2803040790 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 28 Mar 90 pp 1, 5*

[By Roy C. Sinfuego]

[Text] Legazpi City—The Bicol military command (Region 5) reported to Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos yesterday that renegade excolonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan's recruitment drive has been rejected by the officers and soldiers in the region.

Brig Gen Marino Filart, PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police], Regional Command 5 chief, said that Honasan's men—among them Lt Col Red Kapunan, Lt Col Vic Batac and Capt Jovey Deonida—have approached the government troopers to join the ultra-rightist Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldier of the Filipino People (RAM-SFP).

Ramos, who was here for the Regional Peace and Order Consultative Dialogue, assailed Honasan for "his bid to grab power through violence and short-cut method."

Honasan, who was reportedly sighted in Bacolod City and Iloilo, was presumed to be conducting a recruitment campaign prior to launching another coup d'etat against President Aquino and her administration. Top national security adviser Rafael Ileto, however, has predicted that there will be no coup attempt in the near future.

Meanwhile, Brig Gen Federico Ruiz, new Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) commander, said during the meeting that the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) movement remains a threat to the peace and order stability of the Bicol and Tagalog regions.

Ruiz said his 25,000-strong combat troops, supported by naval and air force forces, have yet to contain 2,806 NPA regulars with 2,121 firearms, 1,337 of which are high-powered.

Col Victor Mayo, commander of the 201st Infantry Brigade, asked defense and military authorities for the activation of a seaborne combat unit to counter the NPA navy, dubbed as "Bagong Nabal ng Bayan" (Banaba) [New People's Navy] operating in the coastal areas of Quezon and Bicol sea lanes, using vessels to transport their supplies and giving mobility to the rebels.

Mayo strongly recommended the setting up of an operational sea-borne unit composed of Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) in San Miguel Bay and Pasacao in Camarines Sur.

Army Chief Notes Readiness for NPA Anniversary

*HK2603051790 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 26 Mar 90 pp 1, 22*

[By Owen Masaganda]

[Text] Mariveles, Bataan-Brig. Gen. Guillermo G. Flores, Philippine Army Chief, welcomed yesterday 82 former New Peoples' Army (NPA) rebels as he stressed that the government is ready for any communist attack to mark the NPA's foundation day on Thursday, March 29.

Flores and his staff officers helicoptered here to witness the rebels' renunciation of their ties with the NPA in Bataan.

Forty of the returnees are from Mariveles, 36 from Limay, and six from Orion.

Josie Belunta, former finance chief of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA in Bataan, said she collected P[pesos]300 from each stall owner inside the public market in some towns of Bataan and P5,000 from each fishpond owner to finance the underground movement.

Everytime the NPAs hold a rally in Metro Manila, Belunta said she collects money.

Belunta said she worked under Dante Espiritu, alias "Ka [comrade] Dan," as finance officer. Her husband Willie was killed after she surrendered to the government. She said her husband's suspected killers were believed to be her former comrades in the NPA.

Another returnee who spoke during the peace rally here, Rodrigo Morales of Pili, Camarines Sur, said he was suspected as a deep penetration agent until he surrendered to the military in 1989.

Mayor Oscar de los Reyes administered the oath of allegiance to the Constitution to the former NPAs.

Flores thanked provincial and municipal officials for leading the peace and order drive in Bataan. He assured the people of Bataan of the support of the Army in the pacification drive against insurgency.

Rebel Says Government Will Fail To Crush NPA

HK2703094390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] The Aquino government and the Armed Forces of the Philippines will fail to crush the New People's Army [NPA] before Mrs. Aquino's term ends in 1992.

Leopoldo Mabilangan, alias Comrade Hector of the NPA Banahaw Command, said that the government cannot win because the revolutionary movement will triumph within 10 years. Here is part of an interview with Leopoldo Mabilangan by Deo Macalma:

[Begin Mabilangan recording] The party leadership has set a 10-year period in which to achieve our victory. We are at present working on this. We are consolidating our forces and conducting training and education seminars in order to improve our forces and prepare them for a higher level of battle. The government's claim that they can crush the movement before 1993 is dim because they have been saying this since the Marcos regime, but the

truth is that we are still here, and we are still determined to continue the struggle to a higher level. [end recording]

Military Imposes ID System in Porac, Pampanga

HK2803035790 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 28 Mar 90 p 3

[By correspondent Chandler Ramas III]

[Text] Angeles City—The military is requiring residents of Porac, Pampanga, who are aged 13 and above, to carry an identification card and those caught without it are suspected of being New People's Army [NPA] members or sympathizers.

The military and local government of Porac imposed this ruling as part of a counterinsurgency drive. The ID cards would prove that the holders are actual residents of the town. The military said the campaign aims to crush "once and for all" what they claim was a weakening rebel machinery in the province of Pampanga.

Checkpoints were set up in areas where NPA rebels are said to operate. Witnesses said, however, that the soldiers insisted that those caught without ID cards are either regular members or sympathizers of the NPA.

Reports reaching the office of the mayor in Porac stated that military checkpoints were set up in barangays Pulong Santol, Palad, Tio, Plana and Pias. The mayor's office said checkpoints will be set up in 19 other barangays.

The military started implementing the ID system when members of the Philippine Army's 60th Infantry Battalion [IB] combined forces last week with members of the 69th IB in line with a province-wide counterinsurgency drive.

The 69th IB is based in this city and Magalang and Mabalacat towns, said Lt Col Romeo Dominguez, commanding officer of the battalion. The 69th IB is concentrating in the Tarlac-Pampanga boundary in order to stop communist rebels who are fleeing from a counterinsurgency drive in Bataan.

The soldiers have also surrounded nearby provinces.

Official Calls for 'Export Drive' to EC

HK2703031790 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 27 Mar 90 p 2

[By Anthony L. Cuaycong]

[Text] Opportunities of the Philippines to attract new investments from the European Community will be reduced as a result of the emergence of fledgling democracies in Eastern Europe and the growing trend to form a self-sufficient Pan-European Confederation.

Even as she gave this assessment, Luz del Mundo, charge d'affaires to France, batted for an accelerated export

drive to the EC, particularly to Germany, for products "in which (the country) has comparative advantage."

Reporting the highlights of a recent conference at the Academy for International Diplomacy attended by the Ambassadors of the German Democratic Republic, Poland, and the USSR, and the charge d'affaires of Hungary accredited to France, Ms. del Mundo observed an increased focus of interest on Germany.

"As before, (the Germans) are the determining power in Europe. They will have the largest influence in what happens in the decade to come..."

In warning of a shift in inflows of aid funds from the country to Eastern Europe, Ms. del Mundo noted the ongoing negotiations between the GDR and the Council of Europe, a West European body for promoting democracy and human rights, on:

- the increase of scientific and technical contacts;
- cooperation in various trade sectors;
- the strengthening of diplomatic ties;
- agreements on mining, agriculture, agro-food, energy, transport, and communications industries; and
- transfer of technological knowhow in the fields of environmental protection, terrorism, statistics, and professional management and training.

Ms del Mundo also focused on the rising diplomatic and trade ties between the EC and USSR, Poland, and Hungary. These, plus shifts in the economic and political configurations of other countries in the area, bring about the objective of establishing a potent, united, and self-sufficient European market force.

In this light, Ms. del Mundo pushed for the implementation of an export policy geared toward moving into open markets in Europe in the interim, as "it will take time to restructure industries in (the area), to effect the transition (from) a bureaucracy that has operated for decades under a centrally planned socialist system to a capitalist free enterprise system."

Population Upswing

Outlining the policy framework of an intensification in the country's export drive to Europe, Ms. del Mundo centered on the Federal Republic of Germany, where there is an ongoing population upswing due to the increase in immigrants from the GDR.

"The inflow of refugees...(will bring about a rise in) imports of garments, footwear, etc.," where the Philippines has been traditionally strong.

Ms. del Mundo also underscored the "timely guidance" provided by political and economic intelligence reports "from (EC)...and East European capitals...in instituting greater coordination in the strategies and work programs..."

"These reports could also contain information on the activities of Americans, Japanese, Korean, (and) Taiwanese firms in...Europe and how Philippine firms may establish tie-ups with these firms which have the

capacity to penetrate the markets of Europe," Ms. del Mundo said, even as she urged "speedy progress" toward a Pacific community—much like the EC—whose aim "must be to keep the international trading system open and free, and whose economies should strive to keep their competitive edge in the world market."

Thailand

U.S. Regional Antinarcotics Campaign Viewed

BK2803105590 Bangkok *SLAM RAT* in Thai
28 Mar 90 p 12

[Article by Chaiwat Yonpiam under the rubric "Report" and entitled "Burma—Its Rebel, Heroin, and Logging Problems"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Certain Western diplomats are saying that the Karens have become victims of closer ties between the Thai Government and the Burmese military government. They say both Thailand and Burma want to benefit as much as possible from the logging concessions the Burmese Government granted to Thai private firms. This would not be possible if the Karens continue to control the Thai-Burmese border areas.

Witnesses say there was unprecedented cooperation between the Thai and Burmese Armies in the latest Burmese suppression campaign against Karen rebel strongholds. The Thai Army openly supplied Burmese troops with food and other materials. Burmese helicopters took off from areas far inside its territory to supply Burmese military units engaging in the operation against the Karen rebels.

According to military observers, these Burmese helicopters were supplied by the United States for use solely in narcotics suppression missions. The United States is looking closely at Burma not for the insurgency problem but for a major anti-narcotics operation in the Golden Triangle area which borders Thailand, Laos, and Burma.

Not long ago, an announcement from the U.S. attorney general's office said a legal case was being prepared against Khun Sa as a major producer of heroin entering the United States. Khun Sa is also leader of the Shan State rebel group. The United States anticipates a more acute heroin problem this year as the opium yield in the Golden Triangle is expected to be larger than ever.

After production into heroin, two-thirds of this amount of heroin passes through Thailand to markets in Europe and the United States. The United States is frustrated because its interdiction efforts have faced strong opposition from certain Thai circles. U.S. intelligence reports say Khun Sa receives considerable support from certain Thai circles and protection from Burma because the latter wants to sell logs from areas controlled by Khun Sa to Thailand. In any event, the Rangoon government wants calm in Burma as the Burmese general election in May approaches.

Certain Burmese rebel groups allege that the Rangoon government is involved in heroin manufacturing, saying opium was used as the currency in many areas during the Burmese suppression of the rebel groups.

As the United States is clamoring for a major antinarcotics campaign in the Golden Triangle, observers doubt if Rangoon will provide serious, strong cooperation. U.S.-Burmese relations cooled considerably after the suspension of U.S. aid that followed the Burmese suppression of democracy demonstrators in late 1988 and the power takeover by the Burmese military junta. But past U.S. assistance to Burma was for suppression of narcotics anyway.

The U.S. Embassy in Rangoon reportedly asked the Rangoon government to help arrest Khun Sa for trial on narcotics charges. But nothing concrete resulted, thus causing great concern within the Western anti-narcotics establishment.

The current opium cultivation season in the Golden Triangle is about to end. Due to favorable weather, opium production this year is expected to double the 1,500 tons of the 1988-89 cultivation season. The United States is certain to feel the impact of the production increase.

The complicated political situation that is behind the production of heroin in the Golden Triangle could cause the U.S. narcotics suppression campaign in the region to be less successful than the campaign against cocaine in Columbia.

Dismissal Recommended for U.S.-Indicted Officer

*BK2803013590 Bangkok THE NATION in English
28 Mar 90 p 1*

[Text] A police committee yesterday recommended to Police Director General Pol Gen [Police General] Sawaeng Thirasawat that he dismiss former assistant inspector-general Pol Maj Gen Wet Phetborom for his alleged involvement in trafficking heroin to the United States in 1984. But the committee headed by Deputy Police Director General Pol Gen Wasit Detkunchon said that there was no substantial evidence to prosecute Pol Maj Gen Wet.

After eight months of investigations, the committee unanimously concluded that Pol Gen Wet committed a serious disciplinary offence. In the 414-page report, the committee said it had questioned six officials of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), four officials of the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and seven witnesses called by Pol Gen Wet.

Pol Gen Sawaeng will seek the advice of the Legal Affairs Division, headed by Pol Maj Gen Wira Phithakphon, before he decided whether or not to approve the recommendation, police sources said.

The investigation against Pol Maj Gen Wet was initiated at the request of the US Drug Enforcement Agency following the indictment of the police officer at a US district court in Brooklyn in July last year. The former

assistant inspector-general was indicted for allegedly financing drug shipments to the United States and using his influence to get the drugs through Don Muang International Airport.

The indictment claims that Pol Maj Gen Wet, 53, was a controlling force in the shipment of 5.5 kilos of heroin seized at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York in November 1984. The Police Department suspended Pol Maj Gen Wet, who denied the allegations, from his post last August when the investigations against him began.

NSC Leader Says Army Understands Camp Plan

*BK2503031690 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
25 Mar 90 p 3*

[Text] Phatthaya—The Army now "understands" Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's need to establish neutral camps for Cambodian refugees in Thailand, National Security Council [NSC] chief Suwit Suthanukun said yesterday. But Mr Suwit did not say that the Army—whose top officers have opposed the plan if it involves setting up a major camp in Thailand—agreed with the proposal.

Mr Suwit said the Army now understands that the Foreign Ministry, Interior Ministry, National Security Council and Army have a duty to respond to and implement the Prime Minister's policy. He said the Prime Minister wants to resolve the refugee problem as soon as possible. There are an estimated 275,000 displaced Cambodians living along the Thai border at present.

Mr Suwit said the joint meetings on Monday and Friday discussed the short, medium and long-term plans for the refugees and the implementation of the neutral camp proposal.

At present, Mr Suwit said, the sprawling Khao I-Dang holding centre in Ta Phraya District of Prachinburi is probably one of the most suitable locations.

Consideration was also given during the meetings as to whether additional infrastructure would be needed in the camp to house the Cambodians. He said the officials from the four government agencies discussed what needed to be done to close the border camps, open neutral camps and seek funding from international agencies and overseas. The NSC said the idea is not to use local funds to finance the neutral camps.

Mr Suwit said the current international political situation also had to be taken into consideration. If it appears that the Cambodian conflict may be resolved within a year or so, the plans may have to be changed, he said.

Mr Suwit said one of the issues the meetings considered was whether the Displaced Persons Protection Unit (DPPU) would need more funding.

Meanwhile, Armed Forces General Inspector Gen Phat Akkhanibut said yesterday the proposed neutral camps

should be located inside Cambodia. Gen Phat, who was in Khon Kaen yesterday to attend a ceremony marking the third anniversary of the Green Northeast Project, said: "We have to take into consideration the matter of sovereignty. I don't think it is suitable for the camps to be on Thai soil."

He said Thailand cares for the safety of the displaced Cambodians, "but when the situation in that country improves, they should go home." Gen Phat said the International Red Cross (IRC) has been informed of the military's point of view on this matter. Armed Forces Chief-of-Staff Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong last week met the IRC representative for Asia and the Pacific and said the camps should be located inside Cambodia, preferably in an area where the three resistance factions are in full control.

The Prime Minister's son, Kraisaak Chunhawan, has dismissed fears that establishing neutral camps would put Thai sovereignty at risk, saying that this was a misconception of Gen Chatchai's proposal. Neutral camps would not be permanent as they would serve as transit centres for displaced Cambodians to be sent back to the areas of their choice through reception centres in Cambodia, Mr Kraisaak said.

Editorial Comments on 'Changing Vietnam'

BK2603010990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
26 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Chawalit Will See a Changing Vietnam"]

[Text] Beginning late last year, the citizens of most socialist countries of the world took a long, hard look at their nations. They did not like what they saw. In a few historic months, they tore down four decades and more of socialism and threw it on the garbage heap. For the uncertain, untested chance at freedom of choice, Europeans, Latin Americans and others tossed away the comfort of familiarity. Inevitably, leaders of a few nations were able to resist such efforts by their citizens. But even in the toughest, most repressive socialist countries, the necessity for change is beginning to filter through.

The world of committed socialist countries today is small—and growing smaller. In Asia, we have Vietnam, China, Mongolia and North Korea. Fidel Castro has fought against changes to his Stalinist regime. Albania, so often Europe's odd-man-out, is another example. Although the leaders of most of these regimes seem destined to go down screaming and kicking rather than surrender to popular will, there are some welcome noises from our closest neighbour of committed socialists, Vietnam.

Earlier this month, senior Vietnamese leaders began a lengthy meeting to set policy for the next year or so. This "plenum," as it is called, is the equivalent of a meeting of parliament in a democracy. What is decided in a plenum

becomes government rule. Unlike such plenums conducted since the communist takeover in Hanoi in 1954, the meeting now underway has sparked division and open criticism of the leadership and its policies. This used to be heresy. Now it is a serious matter for discussion.

Vietnam, like China and several other rigidly-controlled regimes, has tried to implement two mutually exclusive policies at the same time. The first is economic freedom of a sort never before seen, including open borders for foreign capitalists. The second is increased checks on any type of political freedom such as open criticism of the Party, dissident activities of any kind, a free press and loyal opposition to the government. China's attempt to enforce both these policies simultaneously resulted in the Beijing massacre. Vietnam's attempt may end far more peacefully and with a more desirable climax.

Vietnamese officials have in general stopped their ridiculous claims that recent overthrows of socialist regimes elsewhere were the exclusive result of some sort of mass conspiracy by the West, originating in Washington. This is a positive first start to the Hanoi reform effort. It forces Vietnamese leaders to look at the true reasons why citizens of socialist countries—and, indeed, rightist tyranny—voted at the barricades, and then at the polls, to toss out their leaders and political systems.

Some of Hanoi's economic-reform policies introduced in the recent past have also begun to show a positive impact. Recently, foreign visitors were astonished by the extent of the flourishing black market and other signs of urban economic affluence.

There is little doubt in the mind of anyone that the Vietnamese yearn for more freedom. Scepticism can be dismissed by the continuing flow of boat people abroad. There are certain signs that the party plenum now underway is going to face this desire by Vietnam's citizens realistically.

A move by party officials to forget their own elite status for a moment and recall that they serve the people may be afoot. Brave moves to institute democratic reform in Vietnam should be made now. If Vietnamese officials lead such efforts, the transition to a free Vietnam can be peaceful instead of chaotic.

Army Commander-in-Chief General Chawalit Yongchaiyut is likely to learn more about this transition when he visits Vietnam today. The very fact that this is the first-ever such visit by Thailand's top military officer is a sure sign of improving relations between the two countries and has been hailed as a turning point—for both nations.

Joint Sea Border Development Talks Reported

BK2603030190 Bangkok THE NATION in English
26 Mar 90 pp 1, 3

[By Kunlachada Chaiphiphat and Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Excerpt] Phatthaya—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed said yesterday Malaysia and Thailand have overcome two major problems that have blocked the joint development of their over-lapping area in the South China Sea. The two countries have tried for the past 11 years to form a joint authority to administer the exploitation of natural resources in the so-called Joint Development Area [JDA]. It would be the most concrete Thai-Malaysian bilateral cooperation.

The two last stumbling blocks that were removed after talks between Thai and Malaysian legal experts here Saturday deal with territorial sovereignty and legal jurisdiction in the 7,300-sq-km area. Mahathir said Thailand and Malaysia are expected to initial an agreement on setting up the joint authority in June. The governments of two countries plan to come up with a draft bill to be put before their Parliament by that time to serve as the basis for the agreement.

Speaking at a press conference at U Taphao airport in Chonburi province before departing for Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian premier said although no agreement was concluded at the Phatthaya talks, all hurdles, including the two principal aspects of sovereignty and jurisdiction over the over-lapping area have been removed.

Thai sources said the talks resolved many details of the proposed joint authority (JA). Among them were the site of the JA office, benefit-sharing and the allocations of JA's administrative posts. The sources said as agreed the JA site would be in the Thai southern province of Songkhla while the JA's chief executive official would initially be a Malaysian.

Prachit Rotchanaphruk, the Foreign Ministry's director-general of Treaties and Legal Affairs Department, said the two sides have agreed that the JA mandate would cover only non-living marine resources—a reference to natural gas and minerals. And on the matter of jurisdiction over the area it was agreed that criminal offences be dealt with under the criminal code of the country where they take place. A special new law will be jointly drafted by Thailand and Malaysia to deal with civil cases.

The Thai-Malaysian legal committee on JDA will meet April 17-19 to discuss a draft bill on the proposed law to be ratified by their respective Parliaments, said Prachit.

The agreement on the questions of sovereignty and jurisdiction was reached by members of the legal committee whose meeting lasted until 3 am yesterday. The meeting of the legal committee followed the one day summit between Mahathir and Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan. The committee agreed that Thailand and Malaysia have equal right to exploit living marine resources in the development area regardless of the boundary.

The agreement to develop the border area is based on the memorandum of understanding, signed by former premier General Kriangsak Chamanan and his then Malaysian counterpart Datuk Hussein Onn in 1979.

"If the JA with all the legal aspects involved materializes, it would be the eighth wonder of the world. No countries with overlapping marine areas in the world have ever settled their disputes over exploitations of resources as Thailand and Malaysia are doing," said one of the sources. The source said many countries having disputes over their overlapping offshores, including Britain, Norway, Japan and Korea are monitoring the development in the Thai-Malaysian venture.

Describing his meeting with Chatchai as "very successful and fruitful," Mahathir said both countries have arrived at a number of significant agreements to strengthen bilateral relations. Apart from the agreement on the joint border area development, the two leaders also managed to settle the long-standing problem of TV signal interference over the common border with Malaysia agreeing to change its frequency and Thailand providing technical assistance. [passage omitted]

Reports, Commentary on Chawalit's Plans Noted

Daily Reports Resignations

BK2803003990 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
28 Mar 90 p 1

[Excerpts] Army chief Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut and his chief-of-staff Gen Charuai Wong-sayan yesterday tendered their resignations from the military but still remained tight-lipped about whether they would join the government or pursue a different political path. Gen Chawalit, however, hinted that he had made up his mind and an announcement about his future plans was imminent.

The resignation papers had not gone into effect as yet, Gen Chawalit told reporters. His aide-de-camp tendered the resignation paper at Government House yesterday morning. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, at a meeting of the Telephone Organization of Thailand (TOT) board of directors, Gen Charuai disclosed his resignation from the army and announced that he was also relinquishing his TOT post. He said he would leave it to Gen Chawalit to appoint his successor as TOT chairman and that if the army chief made no appointment, the board should pick someone from among themselves. [passage omitted]

Chawalit Confirms Resignation

BK2703123690 Bangkok *Domestic Service in Thai*
1200 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Answering a question from reporters today after a function at which he received a 15 million-baht donation from Caltex Oil Company for the construction of a building commemorating the birthday of the king's mother, Army Commander and acting Supreme Commander General Chawalit Yongchaiyut said today he had submitted a letter of resignation from government service. Regarding the reason for his resignation, he noted that he had specified the reason in the resignation

request form. Asked about what he might do after leaving government service, he said he has nothing in mind at the moment but would think about it after the resignation letter becomes effective. He said one must not rush things in this matter.

Letter Not Received by Chatchai

*BK2803062490 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
0530 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Text] Answering reporters' questions at Government House this morning on the resignation of General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Army commander in chief and acting supreme commander, Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan said that he had not yet seen the letter of resignation. He said that the letter must still be with the permanent secretary for defense, if, in fact, General Chawalit really tendered his resignation.

Asked whether the prime minister, in his capacity as the defense minister, will approve the resignation of the Army commander in chief, Chatchai said that he would give an answer only after he sees the resignation letter.

Chawalit Accepted Into Cabinet

*BK2803131990 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
1200 GMT 28 Mar 90*

[Text] Speaking to newsmen today about Army Commander and acting Supreme Commander General Chawalit Yongchaiyut submitting a letter of resignation from government service, Prime Minister Gen. Chatchai Chunhawan said he has accepted Gen. Chawalit into the cabinet. The prime minister nodded to newsmen when they asked him this question. When asked about an announcement on Gen. Chawalit's appointment, Gen. Chatchai said he could not comment because he has to wait for a royal decree on the appointment. The public will hear the announcement when it is made.

Commenting on the report about Gen. Chawalit joining the cabinet, Deputy Prime Minister Gen. Thianchai Sirisamphan said it is good because the government will have another able and knowledgeable man to help its administration. To have a good man will help make the government better. Gen. Chawalit's appointment and portfolio is prime minister's responsibility. On the question of Gen. Chawalit being an unelected official, Gen. Thianchai said the Constitution does not prohibit an unelected person from joining the cabinet. In any event, he thinks Gen. Chawalit may run for a parliament seat once one is vacant.

Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin said to newsmen that by joining the government, Gen. Chawalit will be able to help work for the country in a greater capacity and the government's performance will be better because of the addition of a good and efficient man. Because there is a good man, everything will be good. Regarding Gen. Chawalit joining the cabinet, he thinks there is no problem for a man who has good intentions and who is good to help improve the administration's efficiency.

On Gen. Chawalit joining the Cabinet, Deputy Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said he welcomes a new brother. It is good to have another cabinet minister to help the government. Chuan thinks that there will be no problem about Gen. Chawalit not being an elected member of parliament. It is up to Gen. Chawalit to think for himself. Others cannot guess what another person thinks. Regarding government stability after Gen. Chawalit joins the cabinet, he said government stability depends on members of parliament who belong to government parties, on government performance, and other relevant conditions. Moreover, his entry into the cabinet does not change the number of members of parliament. It remains to be seen how Gen. Chawalit's entry will affect government performance. But one must look at it optimistically, that is, that government performance will improve.

Khukrit on Dalai Lama Visa, Bangkok Rally

*BK2403124590 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai
23 Mar 90 p 9*

[“Soi Suanphlu” column by M.R. Khukrit Pramot]

[Summary] I have been informed that the Foreign Ministry will issue a visa for the Dalai Lama to visit Bangkok. Once before the Dalai Lama sought permission to enter Thailand, but his attempt was rejected by the Thai Foreign Ministry, as it was against the policy of the Thai Government.

Forbidding the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, to enter Thailand must be regarded as a major policy of the Thai Foreign Ministry and Government. Now that the Foreign Ministry has decided to issue a visa to the Dalai Lama, it is a major reversal of foreign policy. Normal political practice in such cases abroad is for a minister to resign, as he cannot have two opposing policies at the same time.

It is possible for the foreign minister to be returned to the Foreign Ministry portfolio by the prime minister and then continue in office with a new policy. However, the present foreign minister would have to resign first.

“If this [report on granting a visa to the Dalai Lama] is true, I can see only one choice for [Foreign Minister] Sitthi Sawetsila. He should first resign from the Foreign Ministry. Whether Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan will later reappoint him or not is another story. In order to show integrity, Sitthi should resign the foreign ministerial post when the foreign policy is reversed.” I am making this comment on a matter of principle, and it has nothing to do with what has happened in the Social Action Party.

“I am expressing my personal viewpoint that if the Foreign Ministry issues a visa for the Dalai Lama, Foreign Minister Sitthi should resign from his post. It is a most common practice in democratic systems everywhere.”

Currently, a group of about 700-800 demonstrators including about 400-500 farmers have gathered at

Sanam Luang and tried to cause public disorder. They are demanding that the government return democracy to the people.

"From the beginning, this demand is just crazy." What do they mean by returning democracy? Democracy is natural phenomenon that exists in the heart of the people and cannot be taken away from them. Thus, it makes no sense to call for the government to return democracy to the people.

These people have gathered at Sanam Luang since the day the opposition Solidarity Party organized a public debate criticizing the government's performance. Furthermore, these people recently marched to the Government House and the Chitlada Palace and attempted to petition His Majesty the King. They carried out a highly inappropriate action in trying to pull the monarchy into their nonsense politics.

Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha ruled that these demonstrators want to create public disorder. He added that the Army has denied it had anything to do with this movement. I don't understand why the Army has to come out to deny it has anything to do with the group.

"Does it mean that whenever there is some senseless happening, the Army will have to come out and deny responsibility? The Army is not in a position to deal with or support such things. Why must it deny? The denial only makes people suspect that perhaps the Army was behind such things, or that it was really behind this incident and so has to come out and deny it."

The government should not have allowed this senseless demonstration to go on for too long and should have contained it before the group dared to bother His Majesty. "I do not want to say that this government is weak and do not want to hear others say that this government is weak. But now there are many events that show that this government really is weak."

It is obvious such a group of people must be organized and financially supported. Farmers must get money for bus fares to travel from their provinces, and food and lodging while in Bangkok. They must have money for loud speakers, printing their leaflets, and many other things. "This shows that there must be people with money backing such a movement, which is causing chaos in Bangkok."

"If such things are allowed to continue without anybody doing anything, or caring to find out the real reasons, we should then accept that this Chatchai government is weak...really weak."

Reports, Commentary on Prodemocracy Rally

Students Urged To End Rally

BK2303025590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
23 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday urged the pro-democracy demonstrators at Sanam Luang to end their rally and to voice their views at a public forum scheduled for this Sunday. As about 500 rallyists continued to rally at Sanam Luang yesterday, Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha gave an assurance police would not use force to put down the demonstration, but would let the demonstrators exhaust themselves and disperse eventually.

At a press conference at Ban Suan Pud Tarn, the army chief categorically denied the military or the Internal Security Operations Command are behind the pro-democracy movement which is demanding that the Government dissolve Parliament and call a snap election. Dismissing the demonstrators' call as illegitimate, he asked them to take part in a public forum, which is to involve people from other sectors and to be televised live nationwide.

He said he is afraid the good intention of the prodemocracy rallyists might be distorted if the demonstration continues indefinitely. Assuring them of fairness and openness, the army chief promised to find an impartial person to conduct the panel discussion and to allow all participants to express their opinions freely.

Asked by a reporter whether the demonstrators are connected with the self-proclaimed Revolutionary Council led by Prasert Sapsunthon, Gen Chawalit said that he wasn't bothered who the demonstrators are. "But for anyone who wishes to express their views, we will make available a stage."

He hinted he might attend the forum as a member of the audience. He said he thought the Government is also supportive of the public forum.

Asked whether it is possible that the outlawed Communist Party of Thailand [CPT] may stage a comeback, Gen Chawalit said most people believe the CPT has not been totally eliminated, although its armed struggle has terminated.

Moscow's perestroika or Beijing's Four Modernisations, he claimed, are just a tactic to make use of capitalism for the development of a socialist society.

Mr Banhan accused the pro-democracy demonstrators of each being paid 50 baht a day to stage the rally. He said the rally would fade when supplies dry up.

He said he has instructed all provincial governors to prevent people from their respective provinces joining the rally in Bangkok.

[The BANGKOK POST in the same issue on page 1 adds the following related report under the headline "Late News":

Twenty leading members of the Task Force Centre of Students of Thailand were arrested and some 400 people who had joined a rally for "power to the people" were sent back home after riot police raided Sanam Luang at 3.00 a.m. today. There were brief, limited scuffles between about 70 riot policemen and students but no serious injuries were reported.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Winit Charunsiri ordered about 70 riot policemen to secure the situation at Sanam Luang and took the 20 students to Chana Songkhram police station. The student centre has led the protesters in a movement for "power to the people" since last month.]

Organizers 'Cheated' Villagers

BK2403010090 Bangkok THE NATION in English
24 Mar 90 p 1

[By Noppakhun Silanane and Sirod Sukpinyo]

[Text] Bangkok Governor Chamlong Simuang, who led yesterday's crack-down on a political group demanding democracy, said he took the action because the activists had "cheated" rural villagers and showed disrespect for His Majesty the King. "Their actions were unacceptable," said Chamlong.

The governor, leader of the opposition Phalang Tham Party, said he had consulted with Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan on the plan at his Soi Ratchakhru residence on Thursday morning.

"The prime minister agreed with the plan and asked the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration to cooperate with the Interior Ministry in carrying out the action," Chamlong said. About 200 BMA municipal police and 200 police broke up the demonstration at Sanam Luang at 3 am yesterday morning, rounding up hundreds of protesters and dismantling more than 20 tents used by the Ad Hoc Centre for Students.

Villagers who had reportedly been lured to take part in the protest were released, but 16 members of the student centre are being detained by the police. Banhan told reporters yesterday the BMA took the action because "it was the agency's duty to keep Bangkok clean and orderly." Chamlong said temporary toilets erected a few weeks ago at the rally site could cause the spread of communicable diseases.

"Moreover, those activists were getting more and more aggressive," the Bangkok governor said. The protesters tried to enter the Chitlada Palace on Wednesday in an attempt to petition His Majesty the King.

Banhan said the villagers were apparently fooled into travelling to Bangkok but had now been sent back by police to their home provinces.

The raid at Sanam Luang occurred less than a day after Supreme Commander Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut urged the demonstrators to halt their campaign immediately, inviting them to air their views in a panel discussion programme to be broadcast on the army-run TV stations. Chawalit said he took the initiative after being asked by Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan to do something.

The general said he would also invite the leader of the Student Federation of Thailand (SFT), academics, representatives of the Interior Ministry and House Committee on Administrative Affairs to participate in the Sonthana Panha Ban Muang (Talk on the Country's Problems), scheduled for Sunday on Channel 5 and Channel 7. But Chawalit said yesterday the plan had been scrapped because SFT leader Wilasini had rejected his invitation.

Wilasini said yesterday she would not appear on the TV programme and that if Chawalit really wanted to promote democracy, the SRT would invite him to its own panel discussion. A senior SFT member said on Thursday the SFT "will have nothing to do with the affair if it is aimed at paving the way for an army officer trying to make his political debut".

The Sanam Luang protest comes less than a week before Chawalit is to resign from military service in order to keep his pledge made three years ago. The SRT accused Chawalit of trying to "take a short-cut to the premiership". The SRT is campaigning for a constitutional amendment, which would require the prime minister to be an elected MP.

More on Dispersal of Rally

BK2403004290 Bangkok THE NATION in English
24 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Police forcibly dispersed a rally staged by students who had been demonstrating for "a return of democracy to the people" early yesterday [23 March] morning and arrested 16 of them for inciting public unrest and disorder.

About 300 police troops from North Bangkok Metropolitan Police headquarters, Nang Loeng and Chana Songkhram police station moved in at about 3 am to disperse the villagers and students. And another 200 or so officials of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration dismantled the make-shift stage and tents at Sanam Luang.

The organizers, mostly Ramkhamhaeng University student activists, are members of the Sapha Patiwat movement led by former communist politburo leader Prasert Sapsunthorn, who could not be reached in Bangkok yesterday and is believed to be staying in Surat Thani.

No violence occurred during the operation which took only about 40 minutes. The villagers who were reportedly duped by the so-called Ad Hoc Centre of Thai Students from their home provinces to Sanam Luang

were taken back to their home provinces in 14 buses escorted by highway police cars.

In a special TV pool programme broadcast last night, Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha said that police decided to move in partly because of a report that the centre was bent on continuing its rally and was mobilizing villagers from 72 provinces to join the rally.

He said that BMA Governor Major General Chamlong Simuang also requested police protection for his workers to clear the rally site on the grounds that the rally organizers violated city regulations on cleanliness by erecting the stage and pitching tents.

The rally had been continuing since Feb 14 night when the opposition Solidarity Party organized one to criticize the government. The government had not taken any action because the rally was peaceful, attracting only scores of people each night. The organizers then led villagers to Government House and later to the Chitlada Palace after the centre's members had fooled the provincial villagers into travelling to Bangkok, Banhan said. He said that the group told some villagers that they would be coming to Bangkok for sight-seeing. Others were promised that they would get farmland or jobs if they followed the students to Bangkok, Banhan said.

The group managed to bring 570 villagers from of 10 provinces in the North, the South and the Northeast, the minister said. Of the villagers, 130 came from Surin, 170 from Nakhon Si Thammarat, 150 from Phichit, 50 from Phayao, 50 from Surat Thani, 50 from Ranong and 20 from Udon Thani, according to a police officer.

The minister said that the members of this group did not represent the student bodies of the various universities. On the students claim that they are demonstrating to bring democracy back to the people, Bunhan said.

"Democracy will be returned to the public when the House's four-year term expires and the general election is called for voters to elect MPs," he said. Banhan also defended the present democratic system, contending that the quality of MPs has been improving election after election since 1975.

Police Director General Pol Gen [Police General] Sawaeng Thirasawat told reporters that police had solid evidence to charge the 16 suspects. They were identified as Somchai Khamphro, Saman Si-ngam, Detsak Phromsanon, Amnat Chamlaengnakhon, Ekkasit Arilapraksa, Santi Thongdi, Sutham Suairup, Chua sae An, Thawin Sammana, Thongphun Nampanya, Somchai Thongdi, Chaiyong Rattanasuwan, Narongsak Mathi, Chalico Bunphong, Chuphong Thithuan and Thirawat Muangkao. They are now being questioned at the Narng Loeng police station.

Pol Gen Sawaeng said that the evidence included videos of the rallies and the tape recordings of the suspects' speeches against the government. "We will continue

questioning them and may level new charges against them after the questioning," he said.

The suspects denied the charges yesterday and said that they were exercising their constitutional rights to air their political views.

Pol Gen Sawaeng said that one of the suspects, Chphong Thithuan, was arrested last year for organizing a controversial meeting of so-called Sapha Patiwat (Revolutionary Council). Chupong is still on trial. His latest offence could be used against him in the trial, the police chief said. Chuphong was arrested along with former communist politburo member Prasert Sapsunthon, architect of Sapha Patiwat, last year.

Pol Gen Sawaeng yesterday also ordered all provincial police stations to advise villagers against being fooled by any group into travelling to Bangkok. Provincial governors also received a similar instruction from the Interior Ministry yesterday.

Editorial Views Student Rally

BK2303064190 Bangkok THE NATION in English
23 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Rule by the People"]

[Text] "Return democracy to the people."

This is the demand being made by "students" who have been rallying at Sanam Luang since Feb 15. Their argument is simple: What we have now is a "parliamentary dictatorship" that allows wealthy politicians to come to power through vote-buying and to control the lawmaking process and the government administration for their own benefit. Therefore, they say, the House of Representatives, and perhaps the appointed Senate as well, should be dissolved and a new council of elected representatives of all the Thai people established to bring about genuine democracy.

Undoubtedly there is some truth to the contention that the existing system is still full of flaws. Most MPs readily admit they have to pay a large number of voters to win elections because other candidates do the same. Enforcement of election laws is utterly lax. Few, if any, candidates or their canvassers have ever been arrested for bribing voters. Indeed, if this critical flaw is not fixed we will see the same old bunch of wealthy politicians—whose primary motive in entering politics is to make even more money—in the government again and again no matter how often we hold elections.

Dissolving the House alone, as demanded by the rallying "students," would not improve the situation. Neither would the formation of a new elected council of national representatives, because the same wealthy politicians can still pay their way back into power.

In fact these "students" are merely repeating the demand of the Sabha Patiwat movement for a "peaceful revolution" that caused a big stir two years ago in Bangkok.

Some of the "students" openly admitted they took part in the Sabha Patiwat movement, which fizzled out after Army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut publicly distanced himself from it. The Army chief—who also advocates a concept of "peaceful revolution" but has never elaborated it in detail—yesterday denied any connection with the rallying "students" at Sanam Luang.

The "students" certainly have constitutional rights to freedom of speech and assembly to demand the return of "democracy" as long as they don't break the law. The fact that they can rally at Sanam Luang for more than a month without a proper permit to use the place shows that the Chatchai administration is not completely undemocratic and that some degree of political tolerance does exist.

But the "students" went so far as to lure innocent people from the provinces into joining them at Sanam Luang by promising them a free sightseeing trip to Bangkok and a beach resort. They tried, but failed, to attract people from each province to enhance the sagging credibility of their movement. What they got were just dozens of unemployed rural people from a few provinces who had nothing else to do and took the free trip offer out of curiosity.

When their ranks grew to several hundred people this week, their leaders led a march to Government House to see the prime minister on Wednesday. The prime minister was unavailable so they marched to the Royal Palace to petition His Majesty the King in what looked like a poor imitation of the students' march in October 1973. Seventeen years ago the students were opposing a military dictatorship which refused to speed up the drafting of a new constitution.

But what are the present-day "students" at Sanam Luang fighting for? A "return of democracy"? Many of them aren't even students. And what do they know about democracy when they can't even be truthful to the people they persuaded to join them?

General Chawalit urged the "students" to end their rally yesterday, offering to allow their representatives to discuss their ideas on an Army TV programme. We don't think this is a good idea. For the offer could be mistaken as a reward to these "students," whose motive and tactics are highly questionable.

They are also unusually well-funded and well-equipped, begging the question of where they obtain their support. The interior minister and the prime minister seem to know who is paying the "students." What they don't know, or don't want to say, is why the mysterious supporter is financing the rally.

Whoever the financier may be, he or she had better save the money and put it into providing political education for the general public, especially eligible voters, so that they stop asking or accepting payment for their votes in the next general election. Paying the "students" to cause

confusion and provoke violence from the authorities can in no way be part of a "peaceful revolution."

Political education, not behind-the-scenes scheming and intrigues, is our only real hope in creating and maintaining true democracy—which is rule by the people, not by money.

'Leading' CPT Members Surrender in South

BK2703025390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
27 Mar 90 p 8

[Text] Yala—A central committee member of the Communist Party of Thailand [CPT] and four other CPT members surrendered to the Civilian-Police-Military Special Task Force 43 in this southern province yesterday.

Task Force commander Maj-Gen [Major General] Panthep Phuwanatnurak said Army Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut had ordered Fourth Army Region commander Lt-Gen [Lieutenant General] Yutthana Yaemphan to ask Task Force 43 to arrange for the surrender of Sun Ungthong, alias Comrade Chom or Comrade Amphon, and four other leading members.

Besides his active role as a CPT central committee member, Sun is also a leader and secretary-general of the CPT Central Regional headquarters responsible for Rat Buri, Phet Buri and Prachuap Khiri Khan provinces. Sun is believed to be in charge of between 80 and 100 CPT members in the three provinces.

The four other members who surrendered were identified as:

- Sup Ungthong alias Comrade Chit, commander of CPT Camp 29 in Prachuap Khiri Khan;
- Suwit Wongsirimit alias Comrade Chuen, another leader of the CPT;
- Mrs Sin Ungthong alias Comrade Fa, wife of Sun and also a nurse; and
- Mrs Fai Ungthong alias Comrade Phan, the wife of Sup.

Maj-Gen Panthep said the group decided to surrender to support national development in a programme initiated by Gen Chawalit. However, Sun denied that he gave himself up to the Army, saying he was invited to appear at Task Force 43 while he was travelling to Trang Province to see his nephew.

But Maj-Gen Panthep said that Army officers questioned Sun and he confirmed his surrender. Sun refused to answer other questions. Military sources said the military had trailed Sun for seven years.

They said the CPT may hold a party meeting in the South soon, either in Nakhon Si Thammarat or Surat Thani. But Sun denied any knowledge of the meeting.

Meanwhile, 65 members of southern separatist gangs surrendered to Task Force 43 over the weekend, bringing to 87 the total number of separatists who have surrendered recently.

Air Force To Buy New Bombers, Jet Fighters

*BK2803005590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
28 Mar 90 p 3*

[Excerpt] The Air Force is to buy new bombers, besides F-16 Fighting Falcon fighters, as part of its modernised defence plan, Air Force commander-in-chief Kaset Rotchananin said yesterday. To update combat readiness, the Air Force needs one squadron of attack aircraft, two squadrons of advanced fighters and two squadrons of fighters to replace some F-5 Tiger fighters, he said.

The Air Force, ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset said, has been considering a variety of aircraft for air-to-surface attacks and air defence missions. Among those considered include the A-7 Corsair and A-10 Thunderbolt all-weather, nighttime attack-bomber aircraft from the United States, informed sources said.

Speaking on the 75th anniversary of the Air Force yesterday, the commander-in-chief said a modern, "consolidated" era of the Air Force is dawning with financial support from the Government and Defence Ministry for its procurement of modern combat aircraft and ammunition to replace outmoded equipment.

The Air Force is also inspecting hardware and equipment for air defence systems, ACM Kaset said. Under the modernisation plan, all weapon systems and ammunition procurements, however, have only been made where the national economy allows, he said.

The appointment of a gunnery division commander would be made along with others as part of the mid-year reshuffle of Air Force officers next month, he said. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Sitthi Sawetsila Visit to China

WA2803134590

For PRC reportage on the visit of Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila to China, including talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, please see the International Affairs section of the 28 March issue of the China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Vietnam

Eighth Plenum Central Committee Communiqué

*BK2803132490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 28 Mar 90*

["Text" of the communiqué of the Eighth Plenum of the Sixth Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee]

[Text] The eighth plenum of the sixth party Central Committee was held 12-27 March 1990 in Hanoi. General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh addressed the plenum's opening and closing sessions.

1. With respect to the current international situation, the plenum realized that many socialist countries face a

comprehensive and very serious crisis. This crisis is having a negative effect on the world revolutionary movement. The imperialist and reactionary forces are thoroughly exploiting the difficulties of socialist countries in order to intensify their intervention and sabotage and to carry out peaceful developments with the aim of wiping out socialist countries. In general, socialism is in a difficult stage of crucial ordeals. A fierce struggle to protect and develop socialism is taking place. However, we are convinced that socialism will be able to gradually overcome the ordeals and difficulties and continue to make progress. Although the world people's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress faces many difficulties, it will continue to develop, and no force can check its advance. This is the law of history.

With regard to the domestic situation, the plenum unanimously asserted that in the past three years or more of implementing the Sixth National Party Congress resolution, our party and state have set forth many renovation guidelines to adjust the economic structure; develop the multisectorial goods economy; eliminate the system of subsidization; vigorously shift to socialist business accounting; expand foreign economic relations; simultaneously renovate economic management on a large scale in the domains of planning, distribution, circulation and finance; adjust the strategy of national defense; intensively assure security and order; better implement democracy in the party and society; and initially renovate party leadership, the activities of popularly-elected agencies, state management, and the activities of mass organizations.

Good results have been achieved initially. This proves that our renovation guidelines and steps are correct. However, we still face many difficulties and obstacles. Our country has not extricated itself from the socio-economic crisis. Moreover, in the process of renovation, differences will continue to emerge. This requires that we be highly alert in order to detect and promptly overcome them.

Through the crisis in socialist countries and the reality of renovation in our country in the recent past, we can draw important points. To ensure the continued advance of the revolution in our country, the party must positively renovate itself, raise its level of leadership and militancy, and always maintain close contact with the people. The party must lead the renovation drive with a firm political ability; always firmly grasp the revolutionary and scientific nature of Marxism-Leninism and the country's realities; have a sense of independence and sovereignty; adopt correct viewpoints, methods and steps in renovation; constantly grasp objectives firmly in the advance to socialism; and oppose tendencies toward extremism, haste, impatience, conservatism, sluggishness, and dogmatism, and especially toward opportunism and demagoguery.

The party plenum emphasized that it is now the duty of our entire party and all of our people to comprehensively

step up the renovation undertaking in accordance with the sixth party congress resolution and other resolutions of the party Central Committee and Political Bureau, consolidate and bring into full play all achievements, resolutely overcome shortcomings and weaknesses, and promptly resolve pressing issues, thereby making our people's cause of building and defending socialism increasingly consistent with the objective law and realities in our nation and helping to fully develop the superiority of the socialist system. To implement these tasks, we must consistently and firmly maintain stability in the political, economic, and social domains, especially political stability. Only when we achieve political stability will we be able to stabilize and develop the socioeconomic domain, gradually overcome difficulties, and improve the people's daily life, thereby creating conditions for triumphantly implementing the cause of renovation. These are tasks each citizen and party member must clearly realize and implement, especially in the current seething, complicated situation.

In continuing to carry out the political tasks set forth by party and state resolutions, we must first of all integrate our efforts on satisfactorily implementing various pressing tasks—namely, increase political and ideological indoctrination in order to make cadres, party members, the people, and armed forces combatants understand the current situation and help them firmly grasp the positions and policies of the party and state; renovate and strengthen the party leadership; enhance the party's political capacity and its vanguard role; firmly maintain unity within the party, especially among party committee echelons; effectively maintain the close relationship between the party and the people; and broaden socialist democracy. These are factors determining the success of the renovation undertaking and the revolutionary cause.

We must continue to satisfactorily develop the political and socioeconomic situation, enhance vigilance, attach more importance to national defense and security tasks, firmly defend the fatherland, firmly maintain political security and social order and safety, continue to expand relations with foreign countries, and enhance international unity in accordance with the sixth party congress resolution and other resolutions of the party Central Committee and the Political Bureau. Our people's renovation cause has achieved new, favorable conditions, but at the same time, it is faced many new ordeals. Our party and people, however, have ample determination, will-power, ability, and intellect to overcome all difficulties in gradually building a bountiful, happy life for the people and building Vietnam into a prosperous, strong socialist nation.

2. The sixth party Central Committee's eighth plenum discussed the problem of strengthening the relationship between the party and the people. The plenum hailed and highly appreciated the enthusiastic contributions of very diverse, astute opinions by various echelons, sectors, mass organizations, and the entire people to the party Central Committee's eighth plenum program,

saying that this reflects the people's sense of responsibility and mastery and their confidence in the party, for they wish to see the party renovate its leadership to take the country forward. The sixth party Central Committee's eighth plenum took note of constructive opinions and issued a resolution on the need to strengthen the relationship between the party and the people, develop the people's right to mastery, and step up the renovation undertaking. The text of the resolution will be made public soon.

3. At the sixth party Central Committee's eighth plenum, the Political Bureau and the Secretariat as well as each member of the Political Bureau and party Central Committee Secretariat conducted self-criticism of their leadership, over the past three years, of the implementation of the sixth party congress resolution. All comrade members of the party Central Committee contributed critical opinions about the Political Bureau and the Secretariat as well as about each of the members. The fact that the self-criticism of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat and the contribution of critical opinions of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat by the party Central Committee were carried out in a scrupulous, democratic, frank, candid, and cordial fashion, with a sense of responsibility and a constructive spirit, contributed to strengthening unity and singlemindedness within the party Central Committee.

The Political Bureau and the Secretariat promised the party Central Committee that they would continue to develop more vigorously their existing strong points and resolutely address all shortcomings of the groups as well as of each individual in order to live up to the expectations and deserve the trust of the party Central Committee and our entire party and people.

4. The sixth party Central Committee's eighth plenum decided to remove Comrade Tran Xuan Bach from his positions as Political Bureau member, party Central Committee secretary, and party Central Committee member, for having seriously violated the party's organizational principles and discipline, leading to many bad consequences.

5. The party Central Committee's eighth plenum also decided to convene the seventh national congress of party delegates by the second quarter of 1991.

Tran Xuan Bach Reported Fired From Politburo

*OW2803150790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1447 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi, March 28 KYODO—Vietnamese reformist Tran Xuan Bach was fired Wednesday as a member of the Communist Party's Politburo, Central Secretariat, and Central Committee at the end of a general meeting of the Central Committee, reliable sources said. A resolution calling for his ouster adopted said Bach had violated party rules, bringing about "unfavorable consequences," the sources said.

Bach had apparently advocated political pluralism (multiparty system) outside the party since the seventh party convention last summer, thereby encouraging criticism of the party from young intellectuals, the sources said. This indicates the Marxist-Leninist party, led by General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, is reaffirming its stance of not following a reformist line like the Soviet Union but of maintaining policies based on its one-party rule, political analysts said. Linh emphasized the need to maintain political stability when he addressed the final session of the party meeting, while expressing his intention to push ahead with economic reforms, the sources said. Bach's ouster is thought likely to draw reactions from inside and outside the Communist Party, especially from members of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Group and other intellectuals who support the reformist leader, the analysts added.

Commander of Navy Dies of 'Serious Illness'

*BK2803082990 Hanoi VNA in English 0719 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 28—Admiral Giap Van Cuong, commander and secretary of the party committee of the Vietnamese Navy, died of a serious illness at the Military Hospital No. 108 here on March 27.

Admiral Giap Van Cuong was born on September 13, 1921 in Thép Truong village, Luc Ngan District, in the northern province of Ha Bac. Formerly he had held various important posts in the armed forces, including those of deputy chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army and commander of the Fourth Military Zone.

Senator Pell Calls for Restoring Relations

*BK2703104190 Hanoi VNA in English 0721 GMT
27 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 27—Chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Claiborne Pell speaking at the U.S. Senate on March 6 supported the ideas that the United States should "maintain full-fledged embassies" in Afghanistan, Angola, Cuba and Vietnam, and open direct talks with the State of Cambodia.

He quoted Mr. Ed Muskie, former secretary of state, as calling for "direct talks by the United States officials with the Government of the State of Cambodia in Phnom Penh" and for "normalization of relations with Vietnam".

C. Pell further said: "For myself I find it difficult to understand how we expect to reach a peaceful solution in Cambodia—a cease-fire and a fair election—without talking to the government in Phnom Penh and restoring relations with Vietnam".

Paper Criticizes 'Hostile' U.S. Policy on Cuba

*BK2703080590 Hanoi VNA in English 0741 GMT
27 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 27—The army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN today came out strongly against Washington's hostile policy toward independent and sovereign Cuba.

The paper says: "Over the past days, the U.S. authorities have time and again uttered threats to directly intervene in socialist Cuba. These moves are nothing but another escalation in the ideological war against Cuba after Washington's installation of radio and TV stations transmitting their programs directly to Cuba".

"What do the U.S. authorities want from a small neighbour country which has no other desire than to live in peace and cooperation and which poses no threat to anyone?" the paper asks. It stresses that the existence and growth of the revolutionary Cuba over the past three decades result first of all from the Cuban people's will and their untiring efforts for national construction under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba and with the great and effective assistance from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. The paper notes that Washington is seeking to capitalize on swift changes in some socialist European countries, which are to some extent detrimental to the Cuban revolution, to interfere in socialist Cuba.

The paper lays bare President Bush's wicked desire for the so-called "free elections" in Cuba which, it says, may place the country under U.S. aegis.

Army Paper on Khmer Rouge 'Slander Campaign'

*BK2703141990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0015 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Article by Quang Loi in QUAN DOI NHAN DAN on the "ill-intentioned fabrication about Vietnam troops returning to Cambodia"—date not given]

[Text] Over the past few weeks, the Khmer Rouge, through the medium of some foreign news agencies and radios, repeatedly spread a fabrication about massive reintroduction of Vietnamese troops into Cambodia. [Words indistinct] they clamored that many Vietnamese army units, clad in Phnom Penh army uniforms, had been seen here and there in Cambodia. Prince Sihanouk has been relatively active in supporting the Khmer Rouge in this deceitful propaganda campaign. He produced some figures that were found by many people to be ridiculous—that Vietnam had formed a 100,000-strong militia force chiefly made up of Vietnamese and that 40,000 Vietnamese troops still remained in Cambodia. Indeed, to the public, there is nothing new in the Khmer Rouge's slanderous allegations. To them, it would be strange only if this genocidal clique—treacherous by nature—recognized the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia. Only the uninformed and gullible are intoxicated by the Khmer

Rouge's poisonous propaganda. As for the world public at large, they are aware of the malicious design of this slander campaign.

First, the Khmer Rouge and other reactionary factions are facing a difficult situation on the battlefield. Following the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, they have concentrated their forces on frantically launching many criminal offenses and occupied certain positions along the Thai-Cambodian border. They dreamed of seizing Battambang and Sisophon—two important strategic positions—in the early days of this year in order to build a liberated zone with a decent-looking capital. However, over the past few weeks, the Phnom Penh troops have launched a series of violent counterattacks, dealing them many blows and serious setbacks, and forcing them to flee from their occupied positions.

The Malaysian newspaper STRAITS TIMES on 23 March reported that the guerrilla forces' hope for scoring significant victories in 1990 is fast disappearing. The Phnom Penh government troops are now in a position of exerting pressure to gain victories in anticipation of the rainy season. The newspaper quoted Serei Sopheak, one of the ringleaders of the so-called Khmer People's National Liberation Front—KPNLF—as saying: The dream for a liberated zone is over. Despite the fact that China promised to resume its arms supply to the KPNLF, we no longer hope to seize and hold various towns.

Second, due to their serious isolation on the public opinion front and their disadvantageous position on the diplomatic front, the Khmer Rouge has no alternative for returning to power in Cambodia other than resorting to force. Reports on their seizure of certain positions in Cambodia will only cause deep concern among the public, including the political circles in many Western countries. This is because all mankind is still heavily obsessed by the Khmer Rouge's genocidal crimes, not only crimes committed during their years in power—1975-78—but also those committed at present against the Cambodian refugees. Therefore, the more the Khmer Rouge intensify their offensives, the more they will be condemned by public opinion and the deeper those forces supporting, feeding, and arming them will be driven into an awkward situation on the diplomatic front.

It should be further noted that following the failure of the IMC [Informal Meeting on Cambodia] in Jakarta due to their trouble-making, the Khmer Rouge have been increasingly condemned and boycotted by the world. Public opinion also demands that China change its attitude and exert its pressure so the Khmer Rouge will become less aggressive and intransigent. Another disadvantage for them is that recently the Thai Government decided to turn Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand into closed and neutral camps, thus preventing the Khmer Rouge from continuing to use these camps as a springboard for waging a civil war in Cambodia. In an

awkward position created by their recent heavy setbacks on the battlefield and their isolation on the public opinion and diplomatic fronts, the Khmer Rouge have no alternative other than to step up their deceitful propaganda campaign about Vietnamese troops in Cambodia in the hope of reducing the impact of the recent victories scored by the Phnom Penh government forces and justifying the resumption of Chinese arms supply to them, as recently revealed by the Malaysian newspaper STRAITS TIMES.

Although having to admit they are unable to occupy Phnom Penh and the whole Cambodian territory by force, the Khmer Rouge—being driven to the current difficult situation, and brutal and fanatic by nature—still refuse to lay down their arms to end the civil war. The only path they are following is that of war. They have never concealed their intention to use violence and mayhem to frighten the people and to use war to wear out the Cambodian people, who have already suffered too much from war. What is more, by waging a civil war, they also intend to blackmail the international community into granting them a legal position in a future Cambodian administration. At present some people still labor under the illusion that acceptance of the genocidal and disgusting Khmer Rouge is the only way to make them end the war. A broad section of public opinion in various countries, including in the West, has totally rejected the possibility of allowing the genocidal Khmer Rouge to return to power. What is most important is to reduce and eventually remove the Khmer Rouge's potential to wage civil war by stopping the supply of arms and sanctuaries for them. When that time comes, they will become little more than an ever-deteriorating group of bandits.

Because of this, on the one hand, we will continue to express our goodwill in dialogue and negotiations to find a political solution to the Cambodian issue. On the other hand, we will resolutely support the principled stance of the Cambodian Government as recently stated by Chairman Hun Sen: The Cambodian Government will not sign any agreement that does not include those factors concerning the elimination of the genocidal Khmer Rouge.

Kaysone Phomvihane Gives Interview to VNA

*BK2403144990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 22 Mar 90*

[Interview with Kaysone Phomvihane, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, by unidentified VNA correspondent in Vientiane on the occasion of the party's 35th founding anniversary; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [Correspondent] On 22 March this year, the entire party, people, and armed forces will mark the 35th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP]. On this occasion, comrade, would you please tell us about the initial results and experiences

acquired in carrying out the policy of renovation in Laos since the fourth party congress?

[Kaysone Phomvihane] Our party's thinking about renovation was expressed in the resolution of the Seventh Plenum held in 1979 by the Second LPRP Central Committee. It was not until the fourth party congress in 1986, however, that it was embodied in the concrete demands for comprehensive renovation of thinking, economic structuring, economic management mechanism, organizational apparatus, and work style. In economy, we still apply Lenin's new economic policy to the specific conditions of Laos, broadening the form of state capitalism; utilizing and strongly promoting the multisectorial economy in which the state-run sector is the backbone; abolishing the centralized bureaucratic mechanism of management and switching over to the mechanism of business accounting; widely using goods-money relations; ensuring the grass-roots units' right to autonomy in production and business; broadening external economic relations; and step by step developing the relations between the domestic and international markets. All these are aimed at developing the forces of production, redistributing the social work force, and changing the natural and autarchic economy into a commodity one.

We consider economic renovation as the driving force. At the same time, we step by step carry out political renovation. We do this by first of all bringing into full play democracy within our internal ranks as well as in the whole society, improving and qualitatively enhancing the party's leadership and the state's managerial efficiency, and promoting the people's role of mastery.

Over the past three years of renovation, we have obtained a number of initial results. A new step of development has been observed in production and business with the participation of the various economic sectors and the inflow of foreign capital investments. The diversity of commodities has been seen in the domestic market, which has been expanded and gradually linked to the international market. The economy has become more dynamic, and the livelihood of the laboring people in areas with production and goods circulation has been markedly improved. Democracy has been better enhanced both in our internal ranks and in society. The state apparatus has been streamlined in the direction of reducing the intermediary levels, increasing efficiency, and gradually separating the function of administrative economic management from that of production and business management. All these have bred enthusiasm and confidence among the masses and encouraged them to respond actively to the line of renovation. Proceeding from the realities of our renovation process, we have drawn a number of conclusions as follows:

First, renovation is, by its true nature, a profound, comprehensive, and long-term process of revolution.

Therefore, renovation must be regarded as an undertaking of broad sections of the masses. The party initiates and leads, but it cannot take over the work of the masses. Furthermore, it must proceed from the essential interests of the masses in their everyday life to motivate and organize the latter in embarking on renovation. Second, renovation must be carried out according to principles. We must first of all firmly uphold the objectives, ideals, and revolutionary path already chosen by the party; at the same time, we must guarantee the right to mastery of the masses and the managerial responsibility of the state under the party's leadership. Third, comprehensive renovation must be carried out with appropriate and well-coordinated steps being taken in the economic, cultural, and social fields. Economic renovation must be regarded as the driving force and renovation of the party's leadership as an important factor. It is necessary to struggle against all the manifestations of conservatism and sluggishness as well as half-heartedness, subjectivism, and voluntariness.

[Correspondent] Against the background of the current international situation, the strengthening of the special relationship and cooperation between Vietnam and Laos has become all the more important toward the revolutionary cause of each country. What is your opinion on this, comrade?

[Kaysone Phomvihane] The special relations of friendship and solidarity between Laos and Vietnam have been fostered by President Ho Chi Minh and tested in the longstanding militant alliance between the Lao and Vietnamese parties and peoples. Given the current international background, the strengthening of the special relationship and all-around cooperation between Laos and Vietnam has taken on a greater significance toward the revolutionary cause of each country. At present as well as in the future, we affirm that it is necessary to constantly consolidate and develop the special friendly relationship and all-around cooperation between the two parties and peoples. We must ceaselessly enhance the efficacy and quality of cooperation in the spirit of wholeheartedly helping each other according to the principles of respecting each other's independence and sovereignty, equality, and mutual benefit to meet the interests of each people and positively contributing to the cause of peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

This is the determination of high-level leaders of both countries; at the same time, it is the aspiration of our two peoples. I believe the two parties, states, and peoples of Laos and Vietnam will surmount all difficulties and do their best to ceaselessly strengthen, consolidate, and develop the special friendship and the loyal and pure relationship between Laos and Vietnam—a priceless common treasure that has been built with the bones, blood, sweat, heartfelt ardor, and intellect of our two fraternal parties and peoples.

Boat People Issue Linked to Economic Blockade

*BK2503125890 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 25 Mar 90*

["Sunday Show"]

[Excerpt] By definition of the Vietnamese penal code, the illegal departure of boat people is an offense. However, at international conferences on refugees as well as in bilateral dealings with countries concerned, we have agreed to accept people who are willing to return. We have allowed all the repatriates to return to their old places to resume a normal life with the forgiveness and compassion of their compatriots. Quite a few foreigners, including senior officials representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as well as journalists, after making on-the-spot observations and talking with the repatriates, have concluded that our state policy is a humanitarian one. On the other hand, Vietnam adopts a firm attitude toward instigators and organizers of illegal departures and toward criminals living in exile. Vietnam has also been organizing an orderly departure program.

It should be pointed out that the hostile policy of blockade and embargo pursued by certain countries against Vietnam for more than 10 years now is one of the causes of Vietnamese economic difficulties, which have subsequently led to illegal departures. People in these countries themselves have called on their governments to end the economic blockade against Vietnam. In his letter to the FINANCIAL TIMES, Mr. Peter Craig in Oxford, England, wrote: Vietnamese combat units have been withdrawn from Cambodia. Hanoi desires to rejoin the international economic community. Why does Britain continue to underwrite a policy which seeks to punish Vietnam for its military successes of the 70's. It is in Britain's national interests to see a stable and prosperous Indochina and one in which there are sufficient incentives to keep its population at home. Mary Poster, program officer for Asia in London, wrote: Exclusions from British and other Western aid have crippled Vietnam's attempt to boost domestic production and development. Britain is not justified in continuing to deny Vietnam aid and trade. We call on the British government to end the senseless embargo and the use of its influence to persuade the U.S. to do likewise. [passage omitted]

Article on GDR Elections, FRG 'Intervention'

*BK2503114190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0015 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[NHAN DAN article; date, title not given]

[Text] Western administrations and their propaganda machines do not hide their pleasure over the results of the elections in the GDR. Notwithstanding their praises for the free and democratic elections that were held for the first time in that country, they cannot conceal the truth that the elections took place under the blatant pressure of the FRG and with its gross intervention in

the internal affairs of the GDR. Top officials of the FRG Administration and leaders of political parties in the FRG directly and openly operated in GDR territory, spending hundreds of millions of marks to campaign for political parties and organizations under their sponsorship. Public opinion in the GDR and many other countries does not tolerate foreign nationals' campaigning in elections in an independent and sovereign country. How can it be that free election is synonymous to freely interfering in another country's internal affairs?

Western countries are greeting the winning camp in the GDR, and it was quite ironic when they sent congratulatory messages to FRG Chancellor Kohl over this victory. Obviously the outcome of the election in the GDR was brought about with Mr. Kohl's money, materials, and efforts. To those who are concerned about the destiny of socialism, the election in the GDR has provided much food for thought, and they cannot help but worry. Since last fall, the situation in the GDR has undergone great upheavals. The process of restructuring and reforms in that country has not gone well. The communists in the GDR have lost one position after another, and they have now become an opposition force without a leading role in political life. Power has been transferred to right-leaning forces whose true ideal is not to build socialism. There has been ever-increasing pressure for a rapid reunification of Germany in accordance with the Constitution of the FRG and for maintaining a unified Germany within NATO.

It is impossible to visualize that there now exists in the GDR a process of advancing toward a kind of socialism that is democratic and humane. According to reports from the GDR, a fairly large segment of the population is worried about social achievements brought about by socialism's being reduced or done away with. The Party of Democratic Socialism of Germany and all Germans who yearn for socialism are now faced with great difficulties and grave challenges. They declared to continue their struggle to firmly safeguard the sovereignty of the GDR in the process of reunifying Germany and defending the social gains of the GDR people. This struggle is surely difficult and complex.

Book Published on Events in Socialist Countries

*BK2503052090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Text] To meet the desires of a large number of readers who are interested in world political events, the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Ideology and Culture Department's International and Propaganda Publication Section has published a book comprising materials on recent events in some socialist countries. In its first part, the book denounces imperialism's new strategies against socialist nations. This is followed by the changing situations in socialist countries, namely the Soviet Union, China, Poland, the GDR, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Bulgaria. The

last part deals with the history of the Berlin Wall, border conflicts in Europe, and relations between the state and church in Poland.

VNA on Effect of Agricultural Policy Changes

*BK2603034090 Hanoi VNA in English 1526 GMT
25 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Mrch 25—One of the most prominent achievements in the current renovation process in Vietnam is in the field of agriculture. The latest National Assembly session attributed the latter success to the renovation of the mechanism of management instituted by the resolution of the tenth plenum of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam held in April 1988. The change for better in agricultural production is more manifest in northern Vietnam where collectivisation had been carried out along a dogmatic line. Since the resolution regarding the new mode of agricultural management, popularly known as "Contract System 10," took effect, most farmers who had abandoned farming to take other occupations have returned to their fields. Not a few have received more lands through biddings organized by the cooperatives. Many have increased their investments in agricultural production.

For instance, Mr Tung, a farmer in Hung Dao commune, Hai Hung Province, grew more than five hectares of vegetables and earned five million dong each crop. Another farmer, in Yen Do commune, Bac Thai Province, got each year ten million dong from one hectare of eucalyptus, 800 coffee shrubs and 60 apricot trees in addition to one ton of jujubes. In the most densely populated province of Thai Binh, the number of food-deficient families has dropped to 1.5 percent of population as against 15 percent in the past. Not a few farmers have more than ten tons of reserve paddy. Last year, the Red River Delta provinces and Thanh Hoa and Nghe Tinh Provinces in central Vietnam reaped 500,000 tons of foodgrains more than the previous year. Livestock breeding continued to develop: 1.5 percent for buffaloes and five percent for oxen and cows. The mountain provinces have begun growing industrial crops. Van Yen District, Hoang Lien Son Province, for instance, last year put 500 hectares under cinnamon and broadened its cinnamon processing work. At Yen Binh District of the same province, the farmers have reclaimed more land for tea and peanut growing. Hoang Van Chan, a farmer in Bac Son District of the northern border province of Lang Son, harvested 30 tons of tangerines a year.

The agricultural cooperatives have been, generally speaking, cut down in size or changed into production groups to better conform with the local conditions. In the northern border province of Hoang Lien Son, 316 out of 776 cooperatives have been changed to "solidarity teams."

"Contract System 10" did cause the dissolution or neglect of the material bases such as stores, drying yards, livestock farms... of numerous cooperatives but it has on the other hand, created tens of thousands of family-owned stores, drying yards, pigsties and poultry pens.

Nevertheless, "Contract System 10" is obviously not yet the best model for agricultural cooperation. First of all, the splitting of too large cooperatives had led to land disputes in most provinces.

The biggest problem, however, is its impact on the implementation of the social policies in the rural areas. The abolition of state subsidisation in agriculture has caused grave concerns among those segments of the population who have (so far) benefitted special government allowances such as the war invalids, the families of fallen combatants, the lonely aged persons, etc. In other words, those who have contributed most to the revolution now feel they are let down.

On the other hand, the abolition of subsidies has also led to the depletion of the funds for social welfare institutions such as creches, kindergartens, schools, infirmaries, libraries, etc. In fact, a large number of these establishments have worn out rapidly, especially in the mountain regions. In most cases, the local authorities can now rely only on the "kindness" of benevolent donors for their repairs.

On the whole, the number of poor peasants who lack capital for production makes up 10-15 percent of the rural population. The new mechanism which abolished the system of advance supply of production materials like seeds and fertilizer by the state has prevented many poor farmers to till all the lands they are allocated.

Meanwhile, the interest rate of the bank loans to farmers and the prices of materials for agriculture remain too high compared to the market price of farm products. Long and medium-term loans to agriculture account only for five percent of all state loans to production branches. All these irrationalities were topics of discussion at the recent session of the National Assembly as well as in the public debates of the programme of the 8th plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

UN-Funded Agrometeorological Project Accord

*BK2403085890 Hanoi VNA in English 0709 GMT
24 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 24—The project document VIE/86/025 on strengthening Vietnam's agrometeorological capabilities with financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] was signed here on March 23 by Tran Van An, director general of the Vietnam General Department of Hydro Meteorology, and Tore Rose, UNDP deputy resident representative in Hanoi.

The project aims to strengthen agrometeorological services to farmers, cooperatives and government agencies concerned with agriculture, which in turn will help raise the yields and quality of agricultural products, permit more effective plant protection, and promote more efficient utilization of land and water resources.

These objectives will be achieved by strengthening the agrometeorological services of the Hydrometeorological Research Institute with the technical assistance from the executing agency—the World Meteorological Organization.

The UNDP is contributing 800,000 US dollars and the Vietnamese Government, 4.5 billion Vietnamese dong, to the project.

UNDP To Fund Project for Refrigeration Center

*BK2503085490 Hanoi VNA in English 0719 GMT
25 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 25—The United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] has decided to fund a project on strengthening the capacity of the refrigeration electric engineering centre of the SEAPRODEX [Vietnam National Sea Products Export-Import Corporation] in Ho Chi Minh City.

This is stipulated in a document recently signed in the city by Nguyen Hong Can, vice minister of marine products, K.G. Singh, UNDP representative, and D. Smith, residential representative of UNDP in Vietnam.

Under the project, UNDP will provide 1,775,000 U.S. dollars in the 1990-1992 period to help the city's SEAPRODEX refrigeration electric engineering centre become the centre for research of refrigeration industry development.

The project, the second of its kind assisted by UNDP, will cover the improvement of the existing facilities in the maintenance of refrigerating equipment, production of spare parts, and training of technical workers.

Energy Cooperation Workshop With France Opens

*BK2603150990 Hanoi VNA in English 1532 GMT
26 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 26—A workshop on energy planning, personnel training and cooperation between Vietnam and France was opened here today by the Ministry of Secondary Vocational, Higher Education and Job Training, and the Ministry of Energy of Vietnam, and the France International Centre on Energy Policies (CIFOPE).

It was attended on the Vietnamese side by representatives of the office of the Council of Ministers, the State Committee for Science and Technology, and scientists from various research institutes and universities throughout the country, and on the French side by Ambassador Claude Blanchemaison, CIFOPE President Desprairies and representatives from various French industrial and energy institutions and of the Asia Institute of Technology (AIT).

Representatives of the Lao and Cambodian Embassies here were also present.

All papers presented at the workshop by Vietnamese and French scientists will deal with the results of their research.

Discussion on Draft Maritime Law Organized

*BK2603160190 Hanoi VNA in English 1529 GMT
26 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 26—A discussion has been organized here by the Ministry of Transport and Communications on the contents of a draft of Vietnam's maritime law to be submitted to the National Assembly for adoption in the next session.

The draft of this law comprises 19 chapters totalling 273 articles systematizing all instruments currently applied by the Vietnamese State relating to the mercantile and other marine activities in Vietnamese waters.

A similar forum is expected to be held in Ho Chi Minh City this year.

Vanuatu Ready To Develop Cooperative Relations

*BK2703105990 Hanoi VNA in English 0730 GMT
27 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 27—President of the Republic of Vanuatu Frederick Karimuana Timakata said on March 20 that the government and people of Vanuatu are prepared to develop cooperative relations with Vietnam.

The Vanuatu president made this statement after receiving the credentials presented by Vietnamese ambassador to his country Tran Tuan Anh the same day. He also welcomed the Vietnamese Government's policy of strengthening and developing multifaceted relations with Vanuatu.